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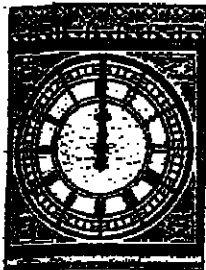
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# THE MILLENNIUM

Who's partying where in 2001?

Philip Howard, 16; Leading article, 19



# HOUSE SALES

What to do when buyers don't bite

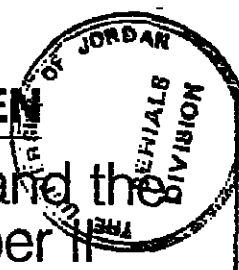
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# ALAN COREN

The Lady and the Gamekeeper II

Lure of the sequel, page 18



30P

# THE TIMES



No. 64,791

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3 1993

RK



Girls from a Roman Catholic school in Greysteel during the funeral yesterday for five Catholics killed in last Saturday's pub shooting. The entire population of the town lined the route as the hearses passed. Report, page 2

## Elected assembly plan for Ulster

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND NICHOLAS WATT

A NEW elected assembly for Northern Ireland is being planned by ministers as the core of a package of measures designed to halt the violence in the province and pave the way for political stability.

Members of the assembly would be chosen by a form of proportional representation and the minority Roman Catholic community would be guaranteed a voice. The new body would have devolved power over areas such as health, education and housing.

The assembly would be part of a wider deal involving concessions by the Dublin government, and the key element of the "concrete and substantive" package John Major has promised to put to Ulster politicians if he can get them all round the negotiating table.

Ministers say the proposals, which could be tabled formally before the end of the year, have emerged from confidential talks with the leaders of the four constitutional parties in Northern Ireland. Mr Major is now planning to see each of them separately over the next few days.

He spoke briefly to the Rev Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist leader, yesterday and is expected to see him again soon. A meeting with John Hume, the SDLP leader whose talks with the Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams have caused such controversy, has been arranged for tomorrow, and the prime minister will see Dr John Alderdice, leader of the non-sectarian Alliance party, tomorrow afternoon. He has also asked to see James Molyneux of the Official Unionists.

Downing Street officials said Mr Major's proposals

■ Though plans for an Ulster assembly will evoke memories of earlier initiatives, John Major hopes it will be part of a settlement to bring stability to the province

were intended to give focus and direction to the constitutional talks when they began. They were an incentive to get people around the negotiating table and encompassed all three strands of the talks involving the parties in Northern Ireland, relations between Dublin and Belfast and the inter-governmental discussions that were given a fillip in Brussels last Friday.

But Dr Paisley — who has put his own proposals to Mr Major — underlined the obstacles ahead when he reiterated that his party would not talk to Mr Hume so long as he continued to meet Mr Adams. "Mr Hume has to say that his talks with Gerry Adams are over," he told BBC radio. He also insisted that Dublin had to tackle the articles of its constitution that set out its claim to the north before there



John Hume with the Bishop of Derry at the funeral

would be any point in talking to the Irish government.

The Major package would involve Dublin agreeing to soften its territorial claim over Northern Ireland and a recognition that a united Ireland could come about only with the consent of the majority of people in the north. A senior British figure in the peace process said yesterday that all facets of the problem had to be addressed simultaneously: "There is no question of a shopping list or moving step by step. All the balls are in the air. They will have to land together."

Mr Hume's talks with Mr Adams were meanwhile endorsed by Dr Edward Daly, the Bishop of Derry, at the funeral of five Roman Catholics killed in Greysteel on Saturday night. Dr Daly told a congregation that included

Mr Hume: "People who talk to paramilitaries and their supporters should be seen as acting in good faith and not rejected by anyone, but respected."

Mr Hume later complained in the Commons that Mr Major had rejected the outcome of his talks with Mr Adams without even talking to him about them, but the prime minister replied that he had to make a judgment about whether actions would lead to consent throughout the community.

Mr Major also signalled that broadcasters could face tighter curbs on transmitting interviews with terrorists and their supporters in the wake of protests over a dubbed interview with Mr Adams broadcast on Channel 4 News last week.

The 1990 Broadcasting Act bans the direct transmission of the words spoken in such interviews, but the broadcasters appear to have found a loophole in which the alleged terrorist's words are said by an actor and, in some cases, synchronised with the lips of the interviewee. The BBC has broadcast interviews with terrorist supporters with a voice-over by an actor. The law is not specific on this point.

Mr Major, who has seen a video of the offending interview, told MPs that it "did stretch the guidelines to the limit and perhaps beyond". He has asked Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary who has responsibility for broadcasting, to review the

Continued on page 2, col 8

Greysteel funerals, page 2  
Who's who in the talks, page 2

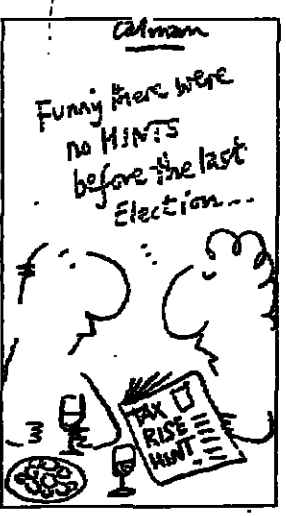
Peter Millar, page 16  
Simon Jenkins, and Peter Brooke, page 18  
Letters, page 19

## Clarke urged to curb tax increases

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHEARMAN

INCREASING Conservative concern over the £10.5 billion in tax increases due to come into effect in April will prompt a last-ditch warning from senior backbenchers to Kenneth Clarke today to avoid substantial rises in the coming Budget.

John Major gave a clear signal yesterday that higher taxation would be needed to



curb the burgeoning budget deficit, while Peter Lilley pressed the Treasury for improvements designed to help the "nearby poor" in the compensation package being drawn up to ease the impact of VAT on fuel.

Tory MPs voiced fresh worries over the "delayed reaction" tax increases announced by Norman Lamont in March in the face of Labour claims that they will

Continued on page 2, col 6

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Leading article, and Letters, page 19  
Robin Hunt, Media page 23

## Bulger case boys blame each other

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE 11-year-old boys accused of abducting and murdering James Bulger blamed each other for killing him when questioned by the police, Preston Crown Court was told yesterday.

Richard Henriques QC, for the prosecution, told the jury how over the course of 19 police interviews each boy had denied throwing the bricks or iron bar that killed two-year-old James on the railway embankment two hours after he had been abducted from his mother in a Liverpool shopping centre. The boys' confessions, Mr Henriques said, demonstrated that both had a fluent capacity to tell lies.

The transcripts of the police recordings, which the jury will hear in full later, demonstrated how Child B had claimed it was Child A who threw bricks and an iron bar at James on the railway embankment until he lay motionless.

"I picked up little stones because I would not throw a brick at him, but [Child A] did. He fell over and kept getting back up again. He would not stay down. I took some stones, but I missed, not by mistake but deliberately," he told the police.

He was said to have admitted that as James lay on the embankment both boys had piled bricks on his face. "I think he was moving because the bricks were moving. A bit like nearly falling off," Child B told the police interviewer.

Child A told the police it was the other boy who had thrown the bricks at James. "I would not hit the babe. I would not touch him," he said in the interview.

The pair, both ten at the time, deny abducting and murdering James in February and attempting to abduct

another two-year-old boy on the same day. Mr Henriques told the jury: "In order to prove murder against either of these defendants, the prosecution must make sure that the defendant in question played a part in causing the death of James Bulger."

In the dock the two boys, separated as ever by their social workers, remained impassive, their pale, round young faces and dark sunken eyes registering no apparent emotion. Immediately beside the dock, the parents of Child B sat together on an oak bench, hunched and bowed as though in prayer. As Mr Henriques gave a brief description of the state in which James's body was found, Child B's mother began to weep silently. Her husband

held his head in his hands. Returning from a brief adjournment, Child B, in a smart charcoal jacket, white shirt and striped tie, reached over the brass dock rail, touched his father on the shoulder and said quietly: "Dad". They exchanged a few words.

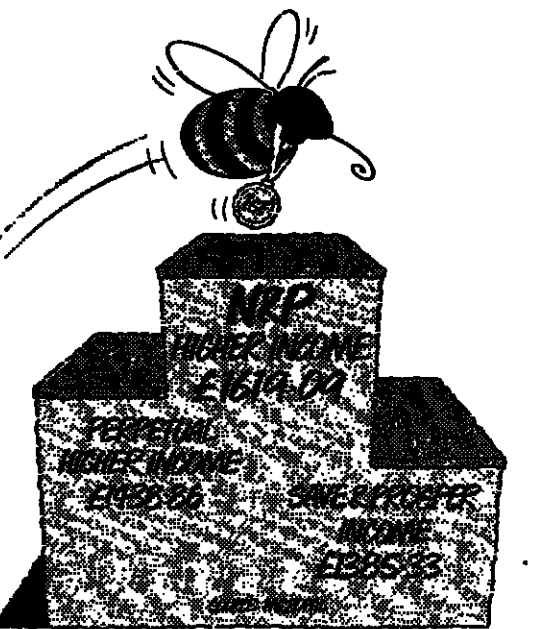
At the back of the court Ralph Bulger, James's father, sat impassive as the circumstances of his son's horrific death on February 12 were trailed before him yet again.

The judge has set hearings to run from about 10.30am to 3.30pm each day, on the basis that the attention span of the 11-year-old defendants will stretch no further than an average school day. On an

Continued on page 3, col 1

Boys accused, page 3

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## 130 bank fraud cases investigated in a year

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR official of the Bank of England has revealed to a committee of MPs that a new investigative unit set up a year ago has looked into 130 cases of possible banking fraud.

Brian Quinn, an executive director of the Bank with responsibility for banking supervision, told the Treasury select committee yesterday that the Bank was working hard to "detect growing signs of criminality" after the collapse in July 1991 of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. He said the special unit was actively investigating about 25 cases and monitoring another 35.

Mr Quinn said that the Bank believed most cases of

criminality or fraud were being committed "through and on banks" rather than by them. Where the Bank discovered evidence of fraud, the investigation was passed to such relevant authorities as the Department of Trade and Industry and the Serious Fraud Office.

He rejected suggestions that the Bank was hamstringed in its supervisory role by its closeness to the "old boy network", but argued that the modern central bank had the independence and expertise to supervise the financial system professionally and to be above the vested interests of market participants.

Business News, page 25

## Tudjman blamed for collapse of secret talks in Norway

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

OFFICIALS from Croatia and the Serb-held enclave of Krajina have been holding secret peace talks in Norway this week. Negotiations on a ceasefire in the disputed enclave began on Monday, but broke off yesterday without agreement.

Serbs from the enclave accused President Tudjman of Croatia of undermining the talks, according to the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug.

The agency quoted a Krajina Serb statement as saying that the negotiations had been going well until Mr Tudjman sent guidelines to his delegation insisting that Krajina must remain part of a Croatian state. This dead-

locked the session. "There were great prospects for agreements on a ceasefire and an end of hostilities, and on economic co-operation, to be signed," said a statement from the foreign ministry of the self-styled Krajina republic, quoted by Tanjug. "However, the Croatian side yesterday received a very urgent dispatch from President Tudjman, which obligated the Croatian delegation to a completely different negotiating platform."

Croat representatives had demanded that Krajina remain part of Croatia and had received guidelines referring to roads and economic resources in Krajina as part of

the Croatian transport and economic system, the statement said.

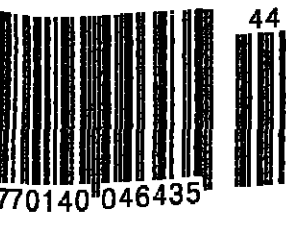
Mr Tudjman's office declined to comment, but earlier he had offered rebel Serbs autonomy in Croatia. The Croat news agency quoted him: "The Croatian government is ready to conclude within 15 days an agreement with local Serb authorities on the cessation of hostilities, giving guarantees for local and cultural autonomy."

In exchange for a permanent peace deal, Mr Tudjman said he was ready to give the Serbs complete local autonomy in Krajina.

Swedish buffer, page 13

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## Fair and foul play from the cockpit

A brave if doomed attempt was made in the Commons yesterday to ban almost the last British sport in which a defenceless creature is torn to shreds to amuse the crowds.

We turn in a moment to the ultimate barbarity. First, though, the horror which an MP yesterday tried to ban: hare-coursing. The hares' friend was Colin Pickhall (Lab, Lancs W). A nice man with a crinkled brow and worried expression, Pickhall was the more convincing because he did not stoop to vilifying his opponents, avoided exaggeration and tried to be fair. He simply described the sport he wants banned, and explained why.

Hares have diminished greatly in number, he said, and have now disappeared from parts of Britain. The aim of hare-coursing is to cause hounds, with the aid of beaters, to chase until they catch — then tear apart — a hare; and to do so within an area sufficiently confined to allow a crowd of spectators, not themselves involved, to watch.

In this, hare-coursing was distinguished from (say) fox or stag hunting, which is mainly for the participants' pleasure. It was more like cock-fighting, dog-fighting or bear-baiting, all of which, Mr Pickhall reminded MPs, have been banned. Hare-coursing, he claimed, was the last of these pursuits to remain legal.

He had attended such an event. He observed that spectators were divided into the "Range Rover and hamper types, on one side" and the "cans-of-lager types" on the other. The organisers had treated him with courtesy. They had put him in the arguments for the sport.

There were four. First, he said, hare-coursing had a long and interesting history. Second, it provided income for the organisers and beaters. Third, it offered a demonstration of the skill of the hare. Finally, the hare frequently gets away.

As the MP began his

rebuttal of each of these defences, we reflected that in one respect Pickhall was surely wrong.

There is another sport, entirely legal, in which hounds and beaters attempt to harry, hunt to the ground, then dismember, a defenceless creature. We had just watched it. It is called prime minister's questions.

With the Labour whips and frontbenchers as beaters, key backbenchers such as Dennis Skinner as hounds, and the rest (on both sides) as bloodthirsty spectators, the Opposition chase Mr Major round in circles, hoping to exhaust and confuse him until he finally falls, whereupon the media hounds join the parliamentary ones in pulling him apart.

The can-of-lager types on the Labour side, and the Range Rover types on the Tory benches, drool. The entire citizenry — spectators in the gallery, television viewers and newspaper readers — enjoy the gory scene.

"A distinguished and interesting history," said Pickhall, "is no excuse for carrying on with this cruel practice." The same is surely true of Parliament!

Nor can the fact that beating pays the beaters while politicians pay the politicians, justify barbarity. Pickhall rightly poured scorn on the defence that hunting displays the skill of the hunted creature.

The hare, Pickhall allows, often escapes with his life. At PM's questions yesterday Mr Major escaped too. However, said Pickhall, the argument that this is a splendid illustration of the hare's skills should be dismissed with contempt.

Indeed, we might add that, whatever may be the prime minister's skills, they are not best illustrated, nor his fellow-MPs' better instincts encouraged, in the grisly cockpit we call the House of Commons.



Thousands of mourners follow the hearse bearing the coffin of Jim Moore, Steven Mullan and John Moyne, as it approaches the Star of the Sea Catholic church

## Townfolk stand united as Greysteel buries its dead

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of Protestants and Catholics stood together in silence with their heads bowed yesterday as hearses carrying victims of the gun attack in Greysteel, Co Londonderry, wound slowly through their small rural community.

The entire population of the small town lined the route to the Catholic church where five of the seven victims were buried. Children in school uniforms held carnations and adults wept as the hearses drove through the village which thought its tolerance made it immune to sectarian attacks.

The hearses carrying Jim Moore, 81, Steven Mullan, 20, and John Moyne, 50, paused briefly outside the Rising Sun public house where the Loyalist gunmen opened fire on Saturday night. Family and friends were joined by 3,000 others for the slow procession up to the Star of the Sea church, where they joined the coffins of Moira Duddy, 59, and Joe McDermott, 54.

Father Jim Gallagher told the congregation that people from all sides of the community had telephoned him to express their anger at the shootings.

"Last evening I received a telephone call from a lady who introduced herself as an ordinary Protestant who went on in a tearful voice to assure me that my parishioners who are suffering of her sincere prayers for them all," he said.

After the service, the sons of Mrs Duddy, who said that her killing had brought the community closer together, wept as they carried her coffin to the church's graveyard.

As the coffins were lowered into the ground, sobs from the relatives were the only noise to break the silence.

John Hume, the local MP for Foyle and leader of the Social and Democratic Labour Party, broke down as he was greeted by relatives of the victims.

At the separate funeral for Karen Thompson, 19, the youngest victim, the congregation at the Catholic church in Finlough, Ballykelly, was

told that the grief of her death was almost too much to bear.

The Catholic priests and bishops then made their way to the village of Eglinton, two miles from Greysteel, for the funeral of John Burns, the only Protestant killed in the attack. The Rev Jim Gray asked the congregation at the Faughanvale Presbyterian church, which included Mr Hume, to stand in silence in memory of the Catholic victims.

Mr Burns was killed as he drank with his wife Nellie, who is still critically ill in hospital. The Rev Gray said of her: "Every yesterday, when she was only able to write her thoughts after she heard of John's death, her thoughts were with other people, and she asked that we provide a cup of tea for you all."

Five more people were arrested yesterday in connection with the killings.

Assembly plan, page 1  
Simon Jenkins and Peter Brookes, page 18  
Letters, page 19

## Anglo-Irish talks set for round 54

By JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THIS morning's Anglo-Irish conference at Stormont Castle in Belfast is the fifty-fourth in the series since the Anglo-Irish agreement was signed almost eight years ago.

The meeting is due to start with a private session between the two delegation heads, Dick Spring, the Irish deputy prime minister, and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary. They will sit with small groups of officials to discuss the latest political moves in the search for peace.

The British government's bilateral "talks about talks" with the mainstay political parties in Ulster and the Hume-Adams negotiations are likely to be the main items for discussion.

Once the political talks are concluded, Mr Spring and Sir Patrick will be joined by Maire Geoghegan Quinn, the Irish justice minister, Sir John Wheeler, the Northern Ireland security minister, as well as Patrick Culligan, the Garda commissioner, and Sir Hugh Annesley, the RUC chief constable, for what may be a prolonged session on security issues.

Unlike some previous An-

glo-Irish conferences, there is unlikely to be much criticism of the security forces in Ulster by the Irish delegation, nor of Irish security co-operation by the British. Rather, there will be a sober, practical assessment of any measures that could improve cross-border security.

Once those talks have been completed, the police chiefs will probably withdraw for the last session, covering "other business". For today's conference, the rather incongruous topic of the arts and culture are due to be discussed, with Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland minister responsible for cultural issues in the province, and Michael Higgins, his opposite number in Dublin, joining the other ministers.

The conference will be concluded in the early afternoon with a joint communiqué from the two delegations, outlining the areas of discussion and agreement.

Few commentators are optimistic that a significant breakthrough will be unveiled when the statement is handed out to the waiting media at the end of Anglo-Irish conference number 54.

## Elected assembly proposed

Continued from page 1  
law with a view to imposing tighter curbs.

British broadcasters are universally opposed to the ban. They believe that it is counterproductive and represents an unacceptable restriction on freedom of speech and information. Stuart Purves, editor in chief of ITN, said: "The government wants the situation where Gerry Adams can speak in public, where he can write articles, and can be quoted in newspapers, but where television viewers cannot hear his voice. That is illogical."

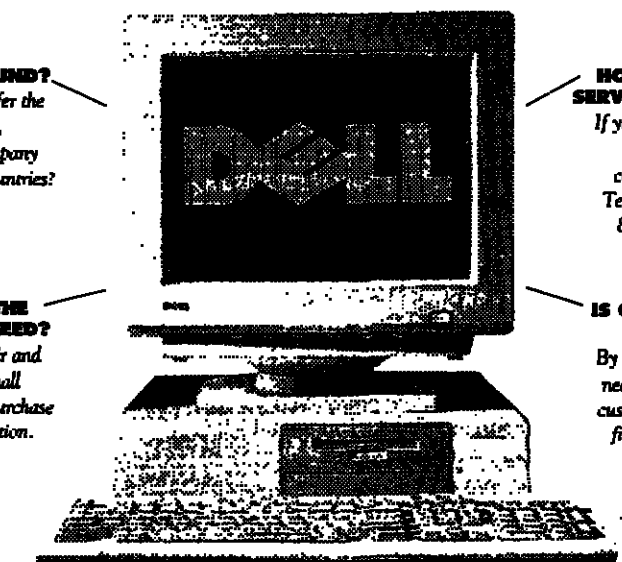
He added that ITN was not breaking the law by broadcasting dubbed interviews. "We will continue to be selective about the occasions in which we interview representatives of organisations like Sinn Féin and the Ulster Freedom Fighters. The decision to transmit interviews, and whether the should be lip-synched or not, will continue to be made at a senior editorial level," he said.

A BBC spokesman added: "The major news broadcasters have all interviewed Gerry Adams to cross question him on the hypocrisy of the IRA bombing the Shankill Road at the very moment he was talking about peace. The BBC acted throughout in full accordance with those restrictions."

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## PM defends rail bill guillotine

By ROBERT MORGAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN Major yesterday defended the decision to limit debate on the railway privatisation legislation.

The prime minister rounded on senior Labour MPs who had condemned the government for imposing a guillotine on the last day's scheduled Commons debate.

To taunts that his party was running away from heated debate on key parts of the bill, Mr Major said: "There have so far been over 186 hours of debate, including 130 hours in this house alone — hardly a negation of democracy."

Defending the government's timetable motion, John MacGregor, the transport secretary, said that three quarters of the 470 amendments that the house had to consider were technical or the result of undertakings given by ministers. There were only two main areas of substance, the bidding for franchises by British Rail and the future of the pension fund.

The government's guillotine motion to impose a five-hour limit on debating amendments to the bill was passed by 314 to 286, a majority of 28.

## Warning to Clarke on taxes

Continued from page 1

cost the average family an extra £8.50 a week. John Watts, chairman on the Commons Treasury committee, is expected to tell Mr Clarke today that Tory MPs believe he should raise taxes by no more than £2 billion later this month, or risk jeopardising the fragile recovery.

Mr Major pledged that the budget deficit would be reduced by tackling public expenditure and via growth, and added that "other matters" would make a contribution. This was immediately interpreted as a fresh warning that big tax increases are on the way on November 30.

Downing Street maintained, however, that he was referring to rises already in the pipeline — the cut to 20 per cent of mortgage interest relief, the 1 per cent rise in National Insurance contributions, higher taxation for company cars, restricting the married couple's allowance to 20 per cent, and VAT on fuel.

Labour is to focus its Budget campaign on the tax rises planned for April.

Politics, page 11  
Leading article, and Letters, page 19  
Robin Hunt, Media page 23

## Police reject charge of lying in court

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND'S leading police officers yesterday rejected claims by a senior judge that police officers lie in court to secure convictions.

Lord McCluskey, a former Solicitor General for Scotland, believes that off-the-record confessions to police should no longer be admissible evidence in Scottish courts. He has told law students in Aberdeen: "In my view, not just in Scotland, but south of the border and elsewhere, the police do manufacture false confessions, perjure and plant evidence. One always hopes it is disappearing now, but it has not fully disappeared."

He said he was sceptical

when juries were told of confessions made to only one police officer, often in the back of a police car or on the way from the accused's house.

Yesterday Sir William Sutherland, chief constable of Lothian and Borders police, said: "Lord McCluskey's comments are a gross generalisation which is unfair on police officers who give honest and fair evidence in the courts."

Chief Supt Jack Urquhart, of Strathclyde police, said it was not constructive when senior judges put forward these outspoken opinions. "They taint the integrity of the vast majority of honest police officers."

## Juveniles may face longer sentences

Longer custodial sentences for juveniles convicted of the most serious offences, such as rape and armed robbery, are being considered by Michael Howard as part of the government's law and order initiative. The home secretary has also ordered officials to look at lowering the age at which teenagers convicted of serious offences can receive custodial sentences. They would be kept in local authority secure accommodation rather than the new secure training units for persistent offenders or young offender institutions.

## New ITV Council head

Leslie Hill, chairman of Central Television, has been appointed chairman of the ITV Council, ITV's governing body. He will succeed Greg Dyke, of London Weekend Television, in the new year. He is known to favour relaxation of ITV ownership rules, and agglomeration of the 15 independent television franchise holders into larger groups.

## Poll tax parents jailed

A girl aged five and her brother, four, were being cared for by relatives last night after their parents were jailed for not paying their poll tax. Ramsgate magistrates sentenced Gordon Price to six weeks and Irene Price to two weeks after hearing they had failed to pay £69 arrears despite six council reminders, a visit from bailiffs and an arrest warrant.

## Man cleared of rape

Richard Callender, 29, of Penge, southeast London, was cleared yesterday of raping a woman who got into the back of his van for a kiss and a cuddle. Mr Callender, a labourer, told the Old Bailey that the 26-year-old hairdresser had earlier allowed him to fondle her. But when they were about to have sex she suddenly said no and he stopped immediately.

## Attacks 'ill-informed'

The president of the Law Society yesterday joined the growing chorus of support for Barbara Mills QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, left, in the face of criticism over the competence of the Crown Prosecution Service. Roger Pannone said: "I deplore the recent personal attacks on the director" which he said stemmed from "ill-informed criticism in the media" or "those with an axe to grind".

## Escort cut by £1,370

Ford is reducing the Escort, its best-selling car, by up to £1,370 in an effort to maintain leadership of the British market over Vauxhall. In September Vauxhall sold 9,341 Astras — which cost from £9,520 to £15,800 — against Ford's 7,270 Escorts. Ford is pricing the three main Escort models at £10,165, £10,890 and £11,960.



'We took him to the railway line and threw bricks at him. A big pole knocked him out'

## Two-year-old's torture 'was unravelled in 19 interviews'

By RONALD FAUX

THE boys who deny murdering James Bulger told police how the two-year-old had been stoned, beaten with a metal pole and left on a railway line.

On the second day of their trial at Preston Crown Court, Richard Henriques QC, for the prosecution, said each boy blamed the other for the death. He read from transcripts of the 19 police interviews with the boys, now aged 11, which he said demonstrated that each had a fluent capacity to tell lies.

They had changed ground, as evidence was disclosed, from total ignorance of James Bulger and events surrounding his death to placing as much blame as possible on each other.

After five interviews with the police and a talk with his mother, Child B had asked to speak to the interviewing officer and admitted that he killed James. He told police that the child had kept following them in the Strand shopping precinct, Bootle, where he had been taken by his mother, and Child A had said: "Let's get him lost outside, so when he goes into the road he will be knocked over."

Child B said: "It's a very bad thing, isn't it?" Mr Henriques told the jury to bear this in mind when deciding whether Child B knew what he was doing was seriously wrong.

He told the court that the boys then took James to a canal bank, where Child B claimed that James was "slammed down" by Child A, causing a bump on his head. Both boys then carried the infant to a reservoir at Breeze Hill and on to Walton village, two and a half miles away.

Child B told police: "We took him to the railway and started throwing bricks at him. A big steel pole knocked him out. We left him lying on the track on the rails. Child A threw paint in his face, blue

modelling paint, then a brick into his face. He said, 'Pick it up and throw it' and I just threw it on the floor. I picked up little stones because I would not throw a brick at him but Child A did. He [James] fell over and kept getting back up again. He would not stay down. I took some stones but I missed, not by mistake but deliberately."

At the next interview, however, Child B said both boys had put bricks on James's face. "I think he was moving because the bricks were moving," he told the police interviewer. Asked if James had kicked him, Child B replied: "Yeah, me. But only light. And I punched him light on the reservoir."

Child A's version of events began by accusing Child B of taking James from the precinct. The boy had been crying for his mother and they had planned to leave him near the reservoir, he said.

In a later interview, he claimed that it was Child B who threw paint and a brick in James's face. "Why didn't you stop him?" the police officer asked. Child A allegedly replied: "I was trying and then he just threw it. When the brick hit him in the face he started bleeding."

He went on: "I would not hit the babe. I would not touch him." Mr Henriques told the jury: "When you consider whether or not he knew this was seriously wrong, you will bear in mind those words."

At his eighth interview, Child A told police that his friend had flung bricks at James and hit him with a metal bar. "I asked him why he did it and he said because he felt like it."

Child A said that he looked to see if James was breathing. Asked by police why he had not pushed James away from the railway line, he replied: "Blood stains, don't it, and



Police searching the track where James Bulger's body was found, mutilated by a train after several beatings

then my mother would have to pay." Mr Henriques said the boys' interviews demonstrated that each had a "fluent capacity to tell lies. Each defendant changed ground as meets circumstances. As police officers disclosed further evidence, so the defendants interviewed independently of one another — make further admissions."

"They demonstrate the progression from total ignorance of James Bulger and events surrounding his death, to partial knowledge, through to each of them placing as much of the blame as possible on the co-accused."

Mr Henriques concluded his opening speech by telling the jury: "In order to prove murder against either of these defendants, the prosecution must make sure that the defendant in question played a part in causing the death of James Bulger."

It must also be proved that

the defendants knew that death or serious injury would be inflicted on James. Because they are under 14, the jury has to be sure that the defendants knew that what they were doing was seriously wrong, rather than naughty. This also applies to the charges of abduction of James and attempted abduction of another boy on the same day, which the accused deny."

Mr Henriques said the jury would hear from people who taught the boys at school, including a teacher who taught religious education and had 16 years' experience of teaching maladjusted pupils. "He taught them right and wrong," said Mr Henriques.

The boys "were not trouble-makers" at school, he added, but were moved back a year because of their absences from school.

The trial continues.

Boys blame each other, page 1

## Mother tells of attempt to entice her son

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE Preston jury heard of an alleged attempt by the two boys to abduct a child from the Strand shopping precinct before James Bulger's disappearance.

The mother, referred to as Mrs Z to protect her son's identity, said she was in a store with him and her three-year-old daughter when she realised that he was not with her at the till. She went to the store entrance and saw him behind benches outside.

Mrs Z told the jury: "I went outside and saw him running behind the benches, so I went round the back of the benches, and as I was running I looked over the benches and saw the taller lad running and stopping and Z was following him — running and stopping, and Z was doing the same. Then he dived behind a post. Her son was laughing. It was fun, someone was playing with him, he was happy and was just following them."

She saw another boy, "the chubby one", walking near by. When she caught up with her son, the taller one "was clutching the post and was looking at Z and was beckoning him to come on."

Richard Henriques QC, for the prosecution, asked: "Did you hear the boy that was beckoning say anything?" Mrs Z replied: "He looked up and he just looked surprised to see me and he just said 'Go back to your mum'. That just threw me, I didn't know what to do. I was that surprised."

Asked why she was surprised, Mrs Z said: "It was obvious what... but I paused and added: 'I don't know.' Mr Henriques: "What had been happening just before, as you saw it?" Mrs Z: "Well, it looked like he was enticing my son to follow him, but at the same time I wasn't sure what he was doing."

She said that earlier, after arriving in the precinct about midday, she had gone with her son and daughter towards a purse stand in the store. "The chubby lad came towards the children. He was kneeling down and he was playing with some purses. At

first he was on his own, and then he shouted to someone and they came as I was trying to get my kids away."

"The chubby lad had hold of one of the purses and was opening and closing it and keeping his eyes on the purse and looking — and out of the corner of his eye went to look at Z, and he realised I was there. He just froze as the other lad was coming towards him. They didn't speak, they just froze."

She said that she had identified two boys she saw in a video shown to her as the boys she had seen in the precinct.

As Mrs Z told the court that Child B had enticed her son away, the boy, listening from the dock, began to cry. He dabbed his eyes with a handkerchief as a social worker alongside offered words of comfort. Child A, now in shirt-sleeves in the warm courtroom, began to suck his thumb.

Moments from the end of her cross-examination, Mrs Z also broke down and wept. She was handed a tissue and was allowed to compose herself before completing her evidence, during which she said that she thought her son was playing "tick" with the two boys.

Brian Walsh QC, representing Child B, had asked her: "You made no effort to get in touch with the police until you had become aware of the awful news about James Bulger?" Mrs Z: "I didn't think that anyone of that age could kill anyone."

Mr Walsh: "Please answer the question. It was Tuesday, after everyone had heard the news about James Bulger?" Mrs Z: "Yes."

"Would this be a fair view — if you had not heard the news about James Bulger and had it never happened, it is highly unlikely you would have contacted the police. Would you agree?" — "Yes."

"Your view was that they were playing tick?" — "Yes." At this point, Mrs Z broke down. Mr Justice Morland allowed her to sit for the last few minutes of her evidence.



Ralph Bulger, father of James, arriving at court

## Bulger case boys blame each other

Continued from page 1  
average day in court it is almost impossible to judge whether their attention is on the matter in hand, and how much of it penetrates their blank faces.

The jury showed visible distress when they were confronted with the first depiction of James's mutilated body. The second day of the hearing was the day for the start of evidence, and the first of it was presented in graphic form. Mr

Henriques handed the jury 14 black ring-binders each containing 54 photographs pertaining to the case.

He then catalogued the pictures for the jury's benefit. The first 43 were workaday shots of the route through Liverpool said to have been taken by James's alleged abductors and murderers. But when he reached number 44 Mr Henriques felt obliged to warn judge and jury: "The remaining photographs are unpleasant to look at, and I advise you to steel yourselves."

They showed the site of James's death by a railway line, his upper and lower torso in two places. It was the first sight the jury had had of what the previous day they had merely heard about, and the shock was manifest.

Judge and jury were further loaded with more fat files containing detailed maps and plans of the route of the alleged abduction and murder.

## Bride tells of family 'abduction'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A YOUNG Muslim woman whose family had arranged that she should marry her cousin was kidnapped after her parents discovered that she was engaged to a Sikh, a court was told yesterday.

Sheila Zafir, 24, was bundled into a car and driven from Bedford to Birmingham, James Rouse, for the prosecution, told Luton Crown Court. Her kidnappers intended to send her to Pakistan to marry the man chosen as her husband. Mr Rouse said that Miss Zafir's engagement to a Sikh had caused a great deal of consternation and distress among her family.

The young woman's uncle, Mohammed Siddique, 47, of Ward End, Birmingham, and Mohammed Rafiq, 41, a taxi driver, from Bedford, deny kidnapping last January 20.

The court was told that Miss Zafir had married her fiancé, Zarocham Singh Bedhan, after the alleged kidnapping. The couple had met at the end of March 1992.

On January 20 this year her father, Zafir Bhatti, 53, and her uncle came from Birmingham to look for her. Miss Zafir told the court she agreed to talk to them in their car. However, once inside the vehicle she discovered the doors were locked, and she was driven to Hurst Grove in Bedford, where she was forced into another vehicle.

Mr Rouse told the court that Miss Zafir was driven to Birmingham, where the police had been alerted.

The trial continues today.

## Trust loses legal fight on hunting

By MICHAEL HORNSBY  
COUNTRYSIDE  
CORRESPONDENT

ANTI-BLOOD sports activists won a legal battle with the National Trust yesterday in their long-running campaign to get the charity to ban hunting on its land.

A High Court judge upheld a complaint by the League Against Cruel Sports that a resolution calling on the trust to re-examine hunting from the point of view of animal welfare had been presented in such a confusing way that people could be misled into voting against it.

The resolution, proposed by Lord Soper, the league's president and 870 other trust members, was to have been put to the trust's annual meeting at the Wembley Conference Centre in London on Saturday, but will now be withdrawn.

Judge Hallgarten said that the trust's ruling council, in compiling the agenda and proxy voting form, had "failed in its statutory duty" to avoid "a real risk of confusion" among members attending the meeting. However, he refused to order the council to re-submit the resolution in clearer form before Saturday.

Jim Barrington, a member of the trust and executive director of the league, said: "We will be pressing for an extraordinary general meeting to look at this whole issue, which the trust has persistently mishandled. The trust should now conduct a postal ballot of all its 2.2 million members on hunting."



Amanda, with her parents, called her attacker 'a pig'

## Knifed girl appeals for public's help

A GIRL who was stabbed seven times in the back when she went to feed a friend's horses yesterday described her attacker as "a mean, nasty, horrible pig". Amanda Millard added: "I could call him something far stronger."

Amanda, 15, was making her first public appearance since the incident ten days ago at Coseley, West Midlands. She appealed to the public to help catch her attacker so that she could feel secure. She also said that her friends were terrified after her ordeal.

"If anyone knows anything, please come forward, because until he's caught I'm not going to feel safe again," she said at Dudley police station.

One of the knife blows touched Amanda's heart and she was taken to a specialist unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, for treatment.

ment. She was released on Friday and is now back home with her family. Amanda said she felt better, although her back still hurt.

She said she did not remember much about the incident. "I was standing there watching Sarah and Beauty. This man came up and grabbed me and attacked me."

Amanda's parents, David and Susan Millard, pleaded for friends or relatives of the knife man to come forward.

Mrs Millard said: "We can understand their position. But if this happened again, whoever is attacked may not be as fortunate as Amanda."

Det Chief Insp John Edwards appealed to two anonymous women callers, one of whom said she knew who Amanda's attacker was, to come forward. The incident room is on 021-626 8073.

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# Privy Council ruling on death row pair may affect hundreds

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of men on death row in the Caribbean and other Commonwealth countries are expected to have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment after a landmark ruling by the Privy Council yesterday.

The seven law lords of the council's judicial committee — an exceptional number — allowed an appeal by two prisoners under sentence of death in Jamaica since 1979.

The appeal was based on constitutional grounds and the law lords held that the length of time Earl Pratt and Ivan Morgan had been held amounted to "inhuman and degrading treatment and torture".

The two men were arrested 16 years ago for murdering Anthony Missick and have been in custody ever since.

Giving judgment, Lord Griffiths said that on three occasions the death warrant had been read to the men and they had been removed to condemned cells next to the gallows.

"The statement of these bare

facts is sufficient to bring home to the mind of any person of normal sensitivity and compassion the agony of mind that these men must have suffered as they have alternated between hope and despair in the 14 years they have been in prison facing the gallows," the committee said.

To execute these men now after holding them in custody in an agony of suspense for so many years would be inhuman punishment.

Sitting with Lord Griffiths on the judicial committee, the highest court of appeal for 16 Commonwealth countries, including Jamaica, were Lord Lane, former Lord Chief Justice, and Lord Ackner, Goff of Chieveley, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Woolf.

The last time a seven-judge committee sat, instead of the usual five, was in 1949, to rule on the nationalisation of banks by the Australian Labor government.

Lord Griffiths said that Pratt and Morgan were not alone in their suffering. "There are now 23 prisoners in

death row who have been awaiting execution for more than ten years and 82 prisoners who have been awaiting execution for more than five years."

The two men's London solicitor, Saul Lehrfreund of Simmons Muirhead and Burton, said yesterday that up to 100 prisoners who have waited years under sentence of death in Caribbean countries could be affected.

Geoffrey Robertson QC, counsel for the men, said that the ruling also had implications for more than 100 prisoners in Trinidad, Belize and Mauritius, where Privy Council decisions were binding, and in a range of countries such as Malaysia, Nigeria, India and Pakistan, where the decisions were regarded as "persuasive authority" and would be influential.

There were other, less direct implications, he added. The decision could now be used by lawyers in America who wanted to challenge the constitutionality of the death penalty in the Supreme Court.



Lt Nicholas Tod who pleaded guilty at a court martial to scandalous behaviour

## Officer jailed for bizarre sex acts

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AN army lieutenant was jailed for 15 months and dismissed from the service in disgrace yesterday after humiliating recruits with bizarre sex acts.

Lieutenant Nicholas Tod, 25, a platoon officer at one of the army's main training centres, used to encourage his dog to perform simulated sex acts with a pillow in front of young soldiers under his command.

Lt Tod bullied and humiliated recruits by kissing and cuddling them. He forced others to kiss him and instructed two more to undress each other.

At a court martial hearing at Long Marston, Warwickshire, Lt Tod, of the 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment, pleaded guilty to scandalous conduct unbecoming the character of an officer, two charges of conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline, and four charges of ill-treating soldiers.

Howard Morrison, for the defence, said it had started off as a bit of fun when one recruit falsely claimed that he was homosexual as a ploy to leave the army. However, it "was repeated like a bad joke", Mr Morrison said.

He told the hearing: "These are unique and bizarre cir-

cumstances which embarrassed recruits, causing the army adverse publicity." By admitting the seven charges, Lt Tod had displayed contrition and moral courage, Mr Morrison said.

He said Lt Tod was faced with the problem of a platoon in which 40 per cent were unhappy with army life and wanted to leave. When one of the recruits came to him pretending to be homosexual, Lt Tod seized on it as an opportunity to inject some sort of "esprit de corps" into the platoon, Mr Morrison said. It was emphasised that Lt Tod, who is married, was not a homosexual.

The ill-treatment came to light after several members of Lt Tod's platoon barricaded themselves into a room at Whittington Barracks, an army training centre in Lichfield, Staffordshire, in August 1992. The army's special investigation branch set up an enquiry. The offences took place between April 1991 and August 1992 at Lichfield and Catterick.

Lt Tod, originally from Neath, West Glamorgan, was awarded the Gulf medal for serving during the campaign in 1991. The sentence is subject to confirmation.

## Nations look to the court of last resort

By OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

IN an oak-panelled room in a quiet corner of Downing Street, the most senior judges in the UK make decisions that can involve life and death in appeals from countries up to 12,000 miles away.

They sit as the judicial committee of the Privy Council, once the most powerful court of appeal in the world and at the height of the British empire, a court of last resort for 450 million people.

But although the empire has greatly declined, the committee still has a crucial role to play.

The seven-judge sitting of the Privy Council in yesterday's case — the first sitting of seven (rather than five) law lords for more than 40 years — was an indication of the gravity of the case before them.

The ruling not only has wide implications for prisoners on death row, it also overturns the Privy Council's previous ruling on the issue in 1982, when the law lords were split, with Lords Diplock, Hailsham and Bridge rejecting the appeal and Lords Scarman and Brightman dissenting.

Yesterday's decision has prompted lawyers to specu-

late on a wider role for the Privy Council as a human rights court within the Commonwealth.

In the past, some of the cases before the committee have been bizarre. In 1909 an immensely rich Indian rajah was carried to his funeral pyre — the fire was lit and the mourners departed. But 11 years later a man went to the widow and claimed he was the man who had been cremated.

He said a downpour of rain had put out the fire and revived him, that he was looked after by holy men and then wandered as a beggar, having lost his memory.

The case dragged through the Indian courts for 25 years until after sitting for 25 days the judicial committee ruled that the claimant was the "dead" rajah. Four days later the rajah died.

There are still 33 countries, territories and dependencies that look to the Privy Council for justice, from the Antarctic wastes to the Isle of Man. Most appeals come from the West Indies.

The judicial committee is also the court of appeal for the General Medical Council and the Church Commissioners.

## St Bernard produces a fortune in litter

A SAINT Bernard bitch is about to enter the record books and earn her owners more than £6,500 after producing a litter of 15 puppies.

Jenna, who weighs 12 stone, gave birth to the puppies two weeks ago. It is the biggest known surviving litter of St Bernards.

The 11 bitches and 4 dogs will stay with their breeders, Carl and Sue Montgomery, at their home in Taunton, Somerset, until they are between eight and ten weeks old.

Jenna is eating 6lbs of meat a day to keep up her strength and feed the puppies. Even then they need further meals throughout the day. The father, William, aged five, has still not seen the puppies because he weighs 16 stone and could easily crush them by accident.

Mrs Montgomery, 45, said: "The puppies are lovely but they are quite a handful now their eyes have opened and they have started running around and playing."

"People keep telling us how much money we will make out of the litter but I don't think we will make a fortune because the dogs are costing us so much."

Amanda Brooks, of the Guinness Book of Records, said: "The largest surviving litter of St Bernards we have on record is only 14 so we will be very interested to hear from Mr and Mrs Montgomery as their litter looks like a new record."

## Colditz trophy finds a new home

By JOHN YOUNG

A SPORTING cup made from old tin cans by two wartime escapees from Colditz castle, which was rediscovered last year in a barn in Switzerland, was presented to Dr Alan Borg, director general of the Imperial War Museum in London yesterday.

The cup, a trophy in a curling competition, was made in four hours by "Tubby" Lister and "Wally" Hammond, Royal Navy artificers, while awaiting repatriation in the village of Saanenmuse, near Gstaad. After the war it remained with other trophies in a cabinet in a local hotel, but they were lost when the hotel was rebuilt in 1984.

Last year Jane Reid, widow of Pat Reid, author of *The Colditz Story*, who lives in Zurich, received a telephone call from the mother of the hotel's present owner saying the cups had been found.

Mrs Reid made yesterday's presentation at a gathering of Colditz veterans at the museum. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was due to have attended, but was forced to cancel the engagement because she had a cold.

The oldest former Colditz inmate present was Major General William "Tubby" Broomhall, 96, president of the Colditz Association. Major Hugh Bruce, the association's vice-chairman, said that "practically everyone who was in Colditz and can still get about" had come to the reception — 50 Britons and a dozen others from France, Poland, Czechoslovakia and The Netherlands.

Photograph, page 24

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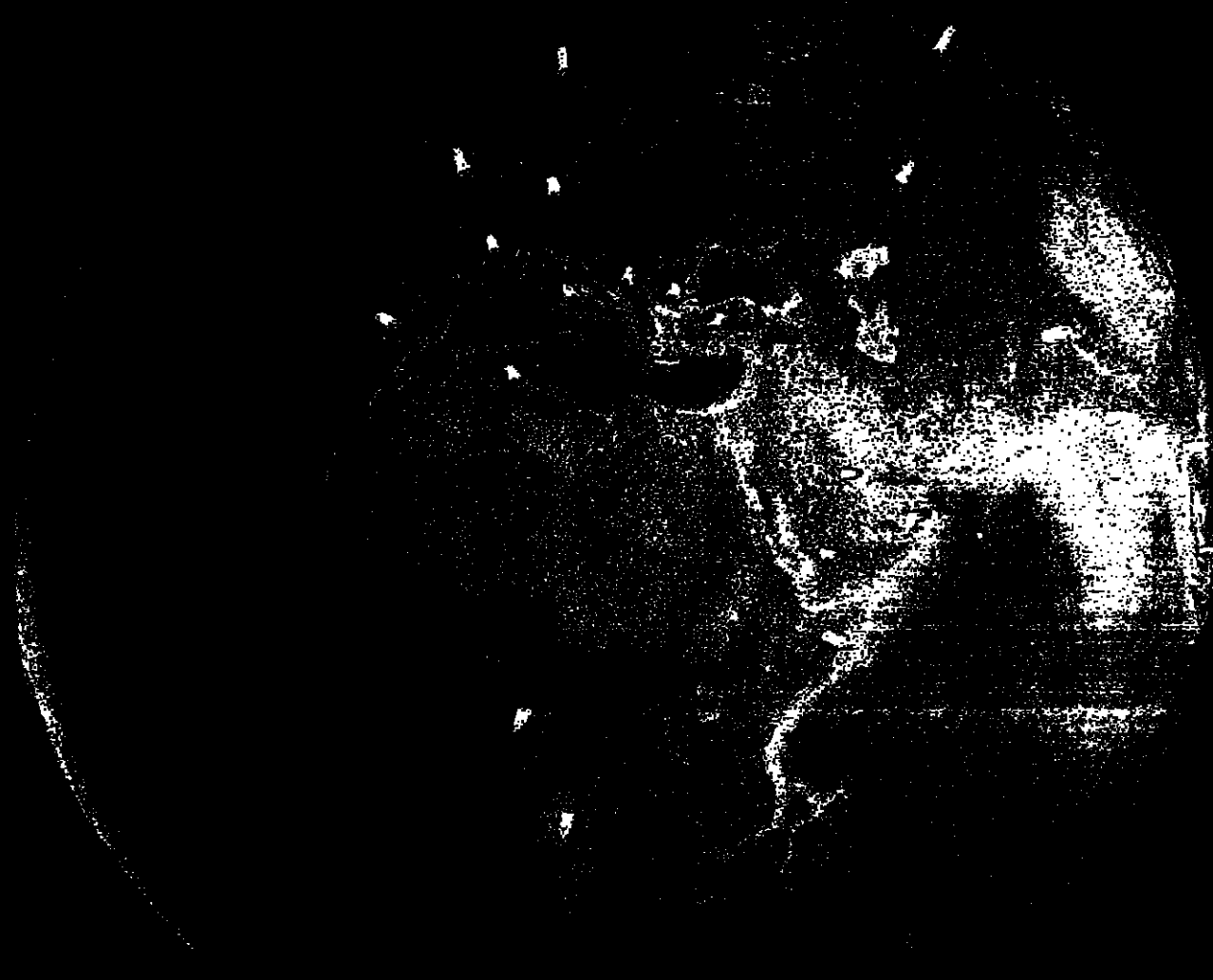
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## How to sell a house when buyers aren't biting

# Home owners advised to beat the seasonal slump

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

HOUSE sellers must find a buyer within a month or risk their property being stuck on the market until spring, estate agents said yesterday.

David Goldsworthy, president of the National Association of Estate Agents, said the traditional autumn selling season would end by December 9. Then the market is likely to go flat before reviving in the spring.

"It's a good time to buy," Mr Goldsworthy said. "Those who are selling often accept lower offers before Christmas because they need to move by then and don't want to wait for the extra few months. There can be as much as a 10 per cent difference in price if you sell before Christmas or wait till the spring."

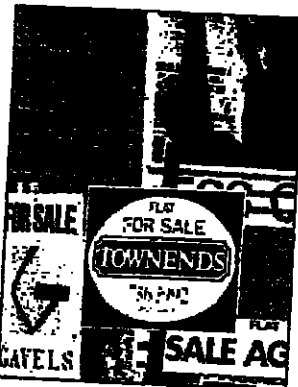
The approaching deadline had given added urgency to home owners seeking to sell, Mr Goldsworthy said. "My advice is to keep in tune with the changing demands of buyers. They are looking now for

a home in which to nest, not to invest. The property should be made to seem the ideal family home. There are far fewer developers and fewer people seeking a quick return on their money than in the 1980s boom. You should market your property accordingly."

The need to present a friendly home means that vendors themselves should play a large role in the sale. "The owners can often be the ideal sellers. They are the ones who can invite buyers to sit down and relax and have a drink. Estate agents can't," Mr Goldsworthy said.

He advises sellers to make sure that potential buyers sit in a chair with the best views from the house, preferably over some form of greenery that has been freshened up with floral colour. "You should place people in your property when they come round," he said.

Sellers should be unemotional and businesslike. Time



Most buyers now seek a nest, not an investment

is of the essence: make the most of the time you have with viewers. Prepare a list of features, especially those that are not obvious such as rewiring or cavity wall insulation, with receipts to hand as evidence if needed. It reassures viewers if you know the factual details about your property and shows you have been methodical in your care of the house, Mr Goldsworthy explained. Sellers can also learn

tricks from show homes. An air of expectation can be conjured up by laying the dining-room table. Fresh flowers are desirable, and the old rule of coffee on the hob and bread in the oven still holds true. Few sellers bother with such ploys, however.

First impressions are crucial, Mr Goldsworthy said. "Kerb appeal is vital. View your property from the road. Buyers need to be enticed out of the car. Repaint the front door, and freshen up window frames. Fill the window boxes with something colourful, and if you haven't got window boxes, acquire some. Two bay trees either side of the front door can add style."

Inside, the principle less is more holds sway. A few pieces of good furniture makes a better impression than many cheaper items. Mr Goldsworthy said. If in doubt, magnolia-coloured paint is better than strong colour.

Leading article, page 19  
Homes, page 37



Ros Hepplewhite giving evidence to MPs yesterday

## Lilley seeks to ease child pay anxiety

By Philip Webster and Edward Gorman

PETER Lilley is considering changes to the Child Support Agency's methods after public anxiety on how maintenance bills are calculated.

Yesterday John Major acknowledged the concerns raised by parents and told the Commons they were being examined by the social security secretary. Mr Lilley is understood to be looking at reforms that could be put to the cabinet over the next few weeks.

Alistair Burt, the social security minister, announced on Monday changes in the way some cases would be handled. He is unlikely to go further when he appears before the Commons social security committee today because the government has yet to complete its examination of whether further action is required.

The issue was seized upon by John Smith, the Labour leader, yesterday. He told the Commons that there was widespread anxiety and dismay over the "rigid and inflexible" financial formula imposed on absent fathers for the maintenance of their

children. Mr Major said: "I know of the concerns that have been raised about this and Mr Lilley is examining them."

The exchange came as a judge reserved his decision in a test case on property settlements that could affect thousands of fathers who made clean-break arrangements involving the transfer of a house but who are facing increases in their maintenance bills.

Gary Crozier of Carlisle is trying to get his previous court order overturned at Liverpool High Court. He gave his former wife the family home on the understanding he would not have to pay weekly maintenance for the couple's nine-year-old son.

Before Mr Major's announcement, Ros Hepplewhite, the CSA's chief executive, defended it in evidence to the social security select committee's enquiry, which began yesterday.

She denied that the agency was picking on parents already paying maintenance under court orders.

## Publisher wins cable channel bid

By Alexandra Freen, Media Correspondent

ASSOCIATED Newspapers, publisher of the *Daily Mail* and *The Mail on Sunday*, is to launch a cable television channel for the London area next year.

Nigel Dempster, the gossip columnist, Lynda Lee-Potter, a feature writer, and Baz Bamigboye, the show business reporter, are expected to appear on the new station, Channel One, to be launched next April on a network operated by London's six cable operators.

Associated is investing £20 million in the new news, information and entertainment service. It beat off rival bids from Mirror Group Newspapers and a consortium made up of Carlton Television and London Weekend Television.

Associated's winning bid is backed by SelecTV, one of Britain's most successful independent television production companies and maker of the series *Lovejoy*, *Love Hurts* and *Birds of a Feather*. SelecTV, which has a 20 per cent interest in Channel One, will make new programmes for the station as well as providing repeats of its popular shows.

Channel One's schedule is expected to include regular news bulletins, a daily sports programme, shows aimed at the under-fives, as well as chat shows and a home shopping service. The station will also pioneer interactive services, allowing viewers to participate directly in programmes.

## Elton story 'was work of fiction'

By Richard Duce

ELTON John, the singer and songwriter, rejected a newspaper apology for an inaccurate article and insisted that they admit it was a work of fiction, a High Court libel jury was told yesterday.

Although the *Sunday Mirror* agreed it had been wrong to report last December that the singer had indulged in "bizarre" eating habits at a Hollywood party, it claimed the story was published in good faith on the evidence of witnesses.

John dismissed as "preposterous" the newspaper's claim that the error had been based on mistaken identity before eventually accepting he had not even been at the party.

John, 46, is suing Mirror Group Newspapers, publisher of the *Sunday Mirror*, for libel. He also wants exemplary damages for the newspaper's "recklessness" in publishing the article without making adequate checks.

Frank Presland, John's solicitor, told the court that his client regarded the newspaper explanation for the error as an insult to his intelligence.

The article claimed that John was seen at the party, hosted by his manager John Reid, chewing food and then spitting it out in an attempt to reduce weight. John claims that the article, written after his public claim to have beaten addiction to drink and drugs together with bulimia nervosa, had damaged his reputation.

The case continues.

"Come and see my new restaurant," he said, "but don't ask me to pose for a bloody picture."

Marco's cooking being rivalled only by his temper, I didn't protest.

## Marco Pierre White, from the safety of Table 3.

On the other hand, we're about to start work on his new cookbook, *White Heat II* and here was a chance to capture the maestro in a moment of spontaneous combustion.

So I pocketed the Olympus 110 Superzoom. The smallest 3 x zoom camera in the world, it'll sit under a napkin without attracting the attention of even the most attentive maître d'.

And with a range of 35-110mm it can pick out a wild mushroom at 30 paces, let alone a wild chef at 20.

Tuesday lunchtime arrives. So do I, and am whisked to table 3, with a view over the kitchen and a bottle of Krug.

I check the menu. Automatic film loading, winding, speed setting, exposure control and exclusive 'thinking' flash. Followed by a highly recommended multi-beam auto focus.

For 'weatherproof' I also optimistically assume 'saucy proof'. (A ladle-full of bouillabaisse goes a long way.)

Superzoom at the ready. I keep an eye on the kitchen door.

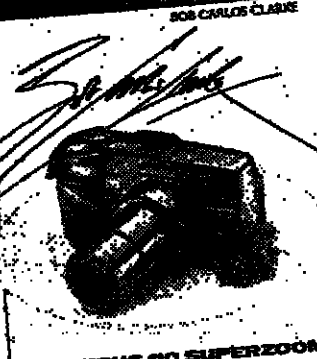
My starter appears (baked sea scallops with lemon and cinnamon - heaven).

Then the gastronomic tornado hits itself. A riff over the tarté tatin; it seems.

As Marco explodes, I snap. The result, you see above.

A few days later I show him. 'Harvey's Canteen' is being heaped with praise from all quarters and Marco is in ebullient mood.

"Crafty sod," he beams, "my compliments to Olympus."



OLYMPUS 110 SUPERZOOM

## THE TIMES DILLONS DEBATE

### Will women priests split the Church?



THE Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Richard Harries, and Karen Armstrong, for seven years a Roman Catholic nun, and author of the controversial new book *The End of Silence*, *Women and Priesthood*, will speak in support of women priests in this important debate. Challenging them will be Ann Widdecombe, MP, and Father Martin Flanagan, vicar of Cowley St John, Oxford, both of whom are leading critics of the decision to ordain women priests.

The debate takes place on Monday, November 8 at 7.30pm, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. Times readers can obtain tickets (£10, concessions £5) either by completing the coupon below, calling at Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1, or telephoning Dillons on 071-915 6612 (24 hours).

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All, including this one, which features

chef Marco Pierre White at the time of the opening of his new restaurant (*The Canteen* in Chelsea Harbour) were created by agency Collett Dickinson Pearce.

It won a well-deserved top award in our recent National Newspaper Campaign Advertising Awards. Congratulations.





# Rise in suicides linked to identity crisis of 'new man'

By Lucy Berrington

THE "new man" is not so much supportive as suicidal, the Samaritans suggested yesterday when they released figures showing an 80 per cent increase in suicides by young men in England and Wales over the past ten years. The suicide rate for women is decreasing.

At St Stephen Walbrook church in the City of London, where the Samaritans were launched exactly 40 years ago, representatives of the charity, including Dr Chad Varah, its founder, suggested that the movements designed to liberate us from the shackles of gender and social class have rendered us socially disoriented and suicide-prone.

According to Simon Armon, chief executive of the Samaritans, today's young men are particularly vulnerable. The number of suicides among men aged 15 to 24 in England and Wales increased from 362 in 1982, a rate of six deaths per 100,000, to 412 in 1992, 11 per 100,000.

He pointed to the concept of

**The burden of individual freedom has exposed a generation of young males who are disoriented and despairing**

the "new man", the voguish media model of the perfect partner, and said many men do not know who they are or what is expected of them, particularly in significant relationships. "This is undoubtedly one of the additional pressures. In a sense it is almost an identity crisis."

Dr Varah, 81, said the erosion of rigid class divisions has had a similar effect.

Last year the Samaritans received 2.4 million calls, the equivalent of one every 12 seconds. Coroners in the United Kingdom recorded 4,673 verdicts of suicide, of which male deaths across all age groups accounted for 76 per cent, compared with 64 per cent in 1982. During the same period the rate of female suicide fell by 43 per cent.

Representatives of the charity, which was established to befriend the suicidal and de-

spairing, reported their own mixed emotions on their anniversary. They emphasised the success of the 24-hour phone-line service, which has clocked up ten million listening hours and is now run by 22,900 volunteers in the UK and Ireland, but noted the continuing challenge. The government's white paper, *Health of the Nation*, sets a target of a 15 per cent reduction in the suicide rate by the end of the century.

Mr Armon said the official suicide statistics probably under-state the reality, with many additional suicides recorded as accidental deaths or resulting in open verdicts. The imbalance between the sexes is partly explained by men's preferred means of death, which tend to be more violent and less ambiguous.

The male:female suicide trends are similar to those in

the United States but do not appear to have parallels elsewhere in Europe. The Samaritans emphasise that sexual politics are just part of a range of modern pressures. Dr Varah said the eradication of rigid class divisions over recent decades had been accompanied by the demise of social solidarity.

He said the class system "gave you a certain security in the sense that you knew where you were, you knew what was expected of you. Nowadays the guidelines are blurred or nonexistent for many people."

He recalled his own upbringing and contrasted its "priceless advantages" with the lack of self-identity or direction in the youth of today. "I do not envy them their feeling of having little or no control over their own destinies."

The Samaritans have linked up with other organisations in an attempt to identify the most vulnerable groups of people. They are also working with medical colleges to help doctors assist patients with suicidal feelings.



Dr Varah, the Samaritans' founder, raises a cup to their fortieth anniversary

## Film buffs scour world for missing treasures

By Alexandra Freen  
Media Correspondent

EUROPE's leading film archive is launching a world-wide search for copies of 150 historic films which have gone missing from cinemas and libraries throughout Europe.

The lost movies range from Errol Flynn's first film, *Murder at Monte Carlo*, made in 1935, to the first British Sherlock Holmes film, *A Study in Scarlet*, shot in 1914 with James Braginton as the great detective.

Archivists believe the missing footage, which also includes Alfred Hitchcock's *The Mountain Eagle*, made in 1926, and Walter Forde's 1931 version of *The Ghost Train*, could be languishing in unmarked cans on library shelves or gathering dust in converted bingo halls.

Launched in Britain by the National Film and Television Archive, the Search for Lost Films, as it is known, is being co-ordinated by Lumière, an EC-funded body set up to preserve Europe's film archive. Lumière, headed by Gian Luca Farinelli of the Bologna film archive, has been given an EC grant of £300,000 to help locate the films and restore them where necessary.

The missing British films contain classic performances by such talents as Max Miller, Margaret Lockwood and Googie Withers, and footage from early Michael Powell films, including *Born Lucky*, made in 1932 with Rene Ray and Talbot O'Farrell.

Clyde Jeavons, curator of the National Film and Television Archive, said the films represented an art form unique to the 20th century. "Film and moving images are the first original art form for thousands of years. Already 50 per cent of the first 100 years of film production have disappeared because of neglect and decay. It is imperative that we save what is left."



Flynn: his first efforts on film are being sought

## Whisky galore up for auction

By A Staff Reporter

THE final 14 bottles salvaged from the wreck of the SS *Politician*, which inspired Sir Compton Mackenzie's novel *Whisky Galore*, are to be sold at auction.

The ship was carrying 250,000 bottles of whisky from Liverpool to Kingston, Jamaica, when it was wrecked in February 1941 off Calvary in the Western Isles next to Barra and South Uist.

For weeks islanders plundered the wreck before Customs and Excise and police intervened. Later the book was turned into a film.

In 1987, several bottles of the whisky were recovered and SS *Politician* plc was set up to salvage the remainder of the cargo.

More bottles were retrieved in 1990 and these are now expected to fetch more than £4,000. They include a bottle of Dimple Haig from about 1940, which is valued at up to £600.

Another highlight of the sale, which will take place at Christie's in Glasgow on November 24, is a mature Talisker distilled in 1896 and bottled in 1938 which is expected to fetch up to £2,500.

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## KEENE on CHESS

### Sacrificial ending

By Raymond Keene  
Chess Correspondent

THE last act in *The Times* World Chess Championship was a consultation game between the two world title contenders and the Channel 4 commentary team. Consultation games of this nature, involving the world's top players, were quite popular until the mid-1930s but have subsequently become rare.

In spite of choosing a well known opening, the White team was surprised by Black's 7...d5, which appears to be a theoretical novelty. 9 c4, although it drove back the black queen, was an error and ultimately our side was reduced to fishing in muddy waters with a dubious piece sacrifice. Fittingly, the last game in the two-month long chess extravaganza, finished with a queen sacrifice to force checkmate.

White: Channel Four Commentary Team (Carol Vorderman, Ray Keene, Jon Speelman, Daniel King and Cathy Forbes)  
Black: Nigel Short and Garry Kasparov  
Savoy Theatre

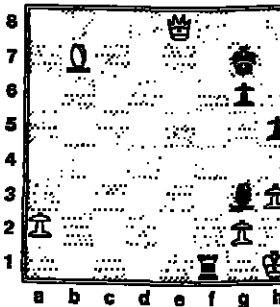
#### Sicilian Defence

- |         |      |
|---------|------|
| 1 e4    | c5   |
| 2 Nf3   | Nc6  |
| 3 Bb5   | g6   |
| 4 d4    | Bg7  |
| 5 c3    | Nf6  |
| 6 Re1   | d4   |
| 7 d4    | c5   |
| 8 exd5  | Qxd5 |
| 9 c4    | Qd6  |
| 10 d5   | Ng4  |
| 11 Nxd4 | Qxd4 |
| 12 Nd2  | g5   |
| 13 Bg4  | h5   |
| 14 Bb3  | Bb7  |
| 15 cxb5 | axb5 |
| 16 Nf3  | Nd5  |
| 17 Nxd4 | Rf8  |
| 18 Nf3  | h6   |
| 19 Qc2  | e6   |
| 20 Nc5  | b4   |
| 21 Bc2  | Ba6  |

- |          |      |
|----------|------|
| 22 Qe4   | Nf6  |
| 23 Qxb4  | Qxd2 |
| 24 Qe7   | Rf8  |
| 25 Nc7   | Kf7  |
| 26 Ract1 | Qxb2 |
| 27 Qxb6  | Bb3  |
| 28 Qc4   | Ng4  |
| 29 Rf1   | B5   |
| 30 h3    | Nc5  |
| 31 Nxe5  | Qxe5 |
| 32 Rte1  | Qf6  |
| 33 Qf4   | Rac8 |
| 34 Bxb8  | Qxb5 |
| 35 Rd1   | Qb6  |
| 36 Qd6   | Qa7  |
| 37 Qd2   | h5   |
| 38 Qe2   | Bd4  |
| 39 Rd2   | Bc8  |
| 40 Bc2   | Kg7  |
| 41 Qe4   | Bd2+ |
| 42 Kh1   | Qb6  |
| 43 Qe7+  | Rf7  |
| 44 Qe8   | Bg3  |
| 45 Rd1   | Bb7  |
| 46 Be4   | O2   |
| 47 Bxb7  | Qh1+ |
| 48 Rd1   | Rf1  |

checkmate

#### Diagram of final position



□ The Fide Women's World Championship is currently in progress in Monaco. After three games the title holder, Xie Jun of the People's Republic of China, has 100 per cent score against Nana Ioseliani of Georgia.

Winning Move, page 48

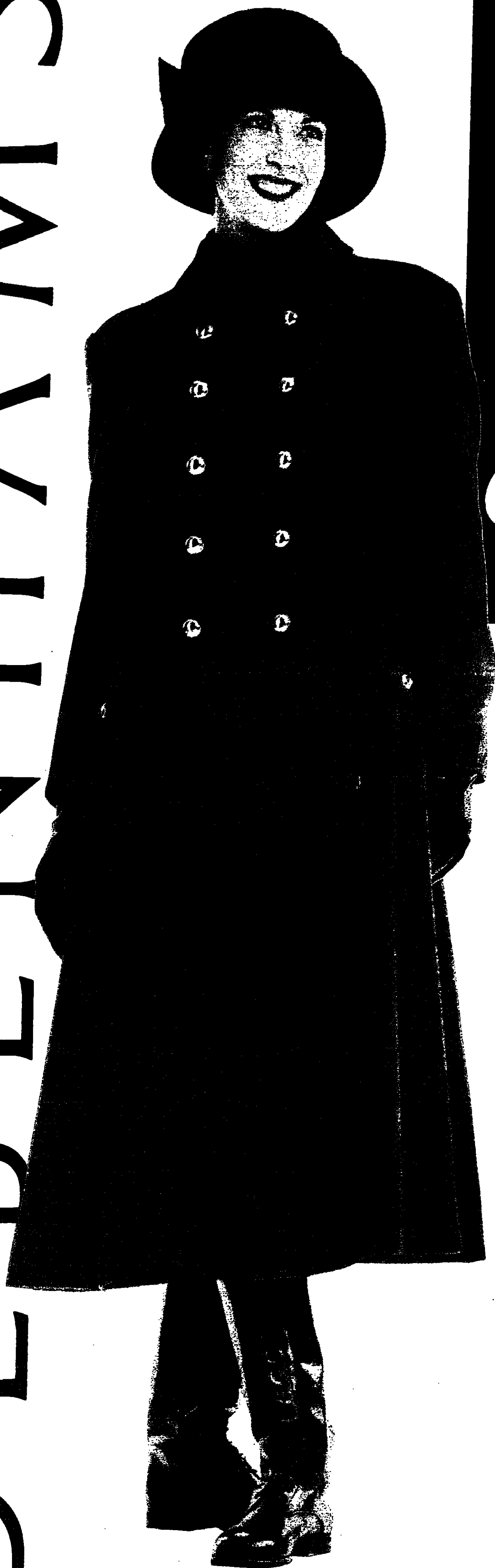
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# Howard to increase prison governors' punishment powers

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISON governors will be given tougher powers to control and discipline unruly inmates under proposals to be unveiled by the home secretary today.

Measures are expected to include the ability to impose longer periods of lost remission on troublemakers in 133 jails, as well as putting ring-leaders of protests in solitary confinement for longer than the present three days.

The move coincides with the threat of selective industrial action by prison officers, including a ban on accepting any prisoners into jails on Monday week. Members of the Prison Officers' Association have voted overwhelmingly to give their executive power to order industrial action in opposition to government plans for more prison privatisation and market testing in the penal system.

The decision to provide governors with more sanctions to punish prisoners is a reversal of policy by the government after the prison disciplinary system was radically overhauled last year, reducing governors' powers.

It follows a warning by prison governors that they were in danger of losing control of jails. They said

■ The home secretary is responding to warnings from officers that they are in danger of losing control of jails

inmates took advantage of punishment they thought was feeble and worth absconding for, assaulting staff and using drugs. The opportunities for trouble within jails have increased with inmates being allowed more time out of their cells and more association.

Brendan O'Neil, chairman of the Prison Governors' Association, said: "Governors want additional powers to give more than 28 days lost remission and to deal with lifers for whom loss of remission is meaningless."

He added: "The feeling in prisons is that prisoners think they can get away with being unruly. The balance is not right."

Michael Howard, the home secretary, is sympathetic to governors' demands for greater discipline in jails as part of his drive to ensure that prison life is not too lax and provides convicted criminals with a "more austere experience".

Today he will outline his vision of prison regimes and discipline when he addresses the final day of the prison service annual conference in Blackpool. In his first major

speech on prisons, Mr Howard is likely to defend his assertion that "prison works" following criticism by penal reform groups and members of the judiciary.

A prison governors' leader said yesterday that they needed additional powers to punish inmates following a series of incidents last week at Dartmoor, at The Verne at Portland, Dorset, and at Everthorpe, North Humberside. At Everthorpe control and restraint teams were called out after prisoners refused to return to their cells.

Offences inside prisons are mostly dealt with by governors, whose sentencing powers are now limited to three days in confinement or 28 days lost remission, against 14 days and 180 days previously.

Serious offences are referred to the courts system, but police have difficulty in obtaining evidence inside prisons. According to some governors, the Crown Prosecution Service is sometimes reluctant to proceed with expensive court cases against long-term prisoners who are likely to receive only concurrent sentences.

## Victory's past comes out of the woodwork

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

WORKMEN restoring the timbers of Britain's most famous warship, HMS Victory, have discovered a note wedged deliberately in the woodwork by naval shipwrights in 1886.

The scrap of paper was apparently ripped from an accounts ledger and contains details of the 19th century shipwrights who carried out repairs on Nelson's flagship.

Mike Rudd, one of the current restorers, found the neatly-folded piece of paper behind a gundeck roofing beam. It is said to be marvellously preserved and discloses that work on laying a new deck was carried out by shipwright pensioners—a fact not previously known by the Victory's historians.

Peter Goodwin, the ship's curator, said: "Various small artefacts have been found in the past but this is by far the most significant and exciting discovery. It was so carefully concealed that we believe it was left there on purpose as a 19th century time capsule for future generations to discover."

The paper gives personal information about the restorers working on board at the time. It shows that retired men from the navy were employed as shipwrights and served under naval personnel while Victory was moored close to Portsmouth harbour between 1812 and 1922.

"We have discovered that one of the two men named, Leading man Lockyear, was not a member of the navy because we have traced rates records back and found he was resident in Portsmouth at least until 1923," Mr Goodwin said.

"The other, Mr Phillips, signs himself as a Royal Navy chief carpenter and we can find no entry for him in the old Portsmouth rates book. This indicates he was probably still in the navy at the time the note was written."

Mr Goodwin said that the message would be left in place when work on the roof beam was completed, and another note from today's shipwrights would be added alongside it.



Leading seaman Jack Cresdee under a beam that hid the note from 1886

## Jobless man turned poacher to feed family

A POACHER walked free from court yesterday after he admitted illegally catching a pike to feed his family.

Alan Soden, 40, told the court that he had been unemployed for nearly three years and was in a desperate financial situation, but refused to accept charity and lived off the countryside.

Magistrates at Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, gave him a one-year conditional discharge and ordered him to pay £10 costs.

Mark Knowles, for the prosecution, said Soden was seen fishing the Severn, near Tewkesbury, in May. He was confronted by officials from the National Rivers Authority and admitted catching an 18lb pike during the close season, which runs from March 14 to June 16.

Mr Knowles said Soden told the NRA officials that he had always taken pike from the river. "Mr Soden told them, 'I have taken these fish out to eat. I've been made redundant seven times and I don't get much money. I have got three kids to feed.'"

Soden, who lives in Tewkesbury with his wife and sons Tim, 12, James, 8, and Thomas, 7, said he received only £131 benefit a week.

He told the court: "I have always taken the odd pike home to eat. It hasn't been the best of lives. I'm even now in a difficult situation and I don't want to turn to anybody for charity."

"I have always lived off the countryside around me, but not damaged the eco-system. I'm coming up to very near three years of unemployment. My situation is desperate."

Passing sentence, John Lewis, chairman of the bench, said: "We are going to give you a conditional discharge because we feel that you have obviously misunderstood the offence."

After the case Soden said: "I think justice has been done. We are in a difficult position but there are a lot worse off than we are. It won't be easy to pay off the £10, although it may seem like nothing to some people."

His wife Anita, 36, said: "He's a good husband, he hasn't done anything wrong. He doesn't go out committing crime. He's just trying to do the best he can for his family."

## Public school checks boosted

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT schools face more frequent checks by government school inspectors as part of a drive towards greater openness, it was disclosed yesterday.

Up to 40 private schools will be subject to published reports by the schools inspectorate each year, three times the present level. The move, announced by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), reflects the inspectorate's enthusiasm to extend to the private sector the spirit of the new monitoring regime that ensures each state school is inspected every four years.

The introduction of an "in-

house" inspection service by leading public schools from September is also hastening the shift to greater accountability. Under the scheme, disclosed by *The Times* two months ago, regular inspection will be a condition of membership of the Headmasters' Conference (HMC) of 238 leading public schools.

Schools will be inspected by teams led by one Ofsted-approved inspector, with the remainder experienced teachers from conference schools. Parents will receive a summary of their findings. HMC estimates the cost of its service to be about £6,000 a school,

compared with up to £40,000 under Ofsted. The HMC scheme reflects growing awareness of the need for accountability, both to parents and to taxpayers contributing more than £75 million under the assisted-places scheme.

James Sabben-Clare, headmaster of Winchester College, said the new HMC and Ofsted initiatives complemented each other. "Independence can mean a little too much isolation, while at the same time it has the advantage of freedom. We are trying to alter the balance a bit to fit the current ethos of movement towards greater accountability."

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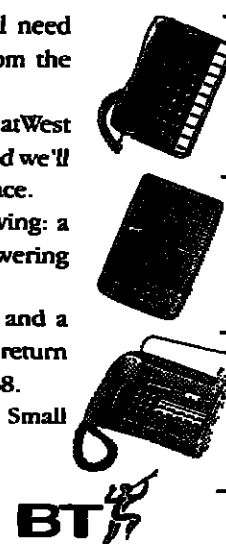
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# Carey calls for fast passage of bill to allow women priests

By Jonathan Prynn, Political Reporter

BITTERLY contested proposals to allow women priests to be ordained in the Church of England yesterday reached the pautimate stage before becoming law in the House of Lords.

The Commons gave an overwhelming majority of 194 votes to the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure last Friday. Only the approval of the Upper House and the formal endorsement of the General Synod now stand in the way of the bill's passage. It seems certain that the reforms will be accepted, and the first women priests are expected to be ordained next April.

The synod first backed the proposals five years ago, opening deep division between reformers and traditionalists that still threatens to trigger the election of hundreds of male priests from the established church.

The debate in the Lords was opened by Dr George Carey, the archbishop of Canterbury, who addressed a packed and attentive chamber, pronouncing it "one of the most significant pieces of Church legislation ever to be presented

to the House". At least a dozen bishops, several of whom were forced to stand because of the crush on the benches, were present to hear Dr Carey call on peers to provide a swift resolution for the sake of "the unity and the mission of the Church".

The legislation being considered "offers the best way of dealing with a contentious subject", Dr Carey said.

He praised the "patience and humility" of women who had waited so long for the opportunity to enter holy orders in the Church of England. "I am confident that they will enrich the priestly ministry of our church," he said.

The Right Rev David Hope, the Bishop of London, one of

the most senior opponents of the measure, said that while the Church needed the "gifts and graces" contributed by women to the public ministry, he was not convinced by the arguments for the ordination of women. It therefore remained a matter of disputed theology, he said, and was "not in the longer-term interests of the Church".

He particularly objected to a clause in the legislation that would allow an individual bishop effectively to exclude women priests from his diocese.

However, the proposal received strong backing from Lord Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury. At a time when exclusive male leadership had been abandoned in almost other walks of life, "it seems undeniable that the representative role of the priest may be weakened by a solely male priesthood".

Lord Whitelaw, the former deputy prime minister, questioned whether the House of Lords had the authority to block the "clearly expressed wish of the established Church".

## In Parliament

Commons (230). Questions: Foreign Office, Cardiff Bay barrage bill, timetable motion and Lords amendments. Motions on MPs' pay and ministerial salaries. Lords (230). Railways bill, Lords amendments.

## Judge rebukes arms officials

By Michael Dynes, Whitehall Correspondent

LORD Justice Scott yesterday expressed astonishment over Whitehall's decision to approve exports of machine tools to Iraq which were "obviously" intended to make weapons.

An order for 141 machine tools was approved in 1987, at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, without anyone even suspecting they would be used to make munitions in breach of the government's arms export guidelines, the judge said.

He also rebuked Whitehall officials after discovering that numerous documents with ministerial annotations have

not yet been disclosed to the enquiry. He demanded that they be made available to him within 24 hours.

Even before intelligence suggesting the tools were destined for Iraqi armaments plants, it was self-evident what they would be used for, Lord Justice Scott said. "Given the state of the war they were obviously going to be used to make munitions. They were not going to be used to make washing machines. I can't understand why there was no suspicion they had a military use. It beggars belief."

Alan Barrett, a defence

ministry official responsible for implementing the guidelines, said the first batch of export licences for Matrix Churchill, and three other machine tool manufacturers, were approved because there was no evidence to suggest they would be used for other than civilian purposes.

When an intelligence report, circulated in Whitehall in November 1987, warned that Iraq had signed contracts with numerous countries to help it build an independent armaments manufacturing capability, officials failed to act until January.

## Missing chairman makes headline news

PETER TREWEN



Roy Hattersley made a point with the head of Sir Norman Fowler's *Spitting Image* puppet yesterday when he accompanied editors of Midlands newspapers protesting against the possible imposition of VAT on titles. The Labour MP for Birmingham, Sparkbrook, said the decapitated head of Sir Norman, chairman of the Conservative party and also of Midland Independent Newspapers, demonstrated that the chairman should be there in spirit if not in body. Earlier, group editors

carried a coffin to the House of Commons as a warning on VAT to the Chancellor, and presented petitions to 10 Downing Street. Nigel Haslwell, editor of *The Birmingham Post*, said that if VAT were imposed it would be "a long, slow suicide note" for the Conservative party. "There would be fewer newspapers and hardly any of those that were left would be supporting the Tories."

Diary, page 18. Letters, page 19. Media, pages 22-23.

## Clarke's Budget for all seasons is unified sham

By Peter Riddell

THE much trumpeted unified Budget bringing together spending and tax has become a sham. After sorting out spending over the past month, Kenneth Clarke will take decisions on tax separately and, in the familiar secret way, over the next four weeks. The only way the Budget will be unified is when the proposals are announced on November 30. What we will hear then is the usual autumn statement, a couple of weeks late, and the spring Budget, three and a half months early.

This is contrary not only to the much proclaimed Thatcherite principle that taxes should determine expenditure, rather than the other way round, but also to

Clarke has repeatedly said he was not going to think about tax until just before the Budget.

The Treasury argues that it has been hard enough to hold expenditure down within a target of no change in real terms next year, so that offering the cabinet choices between varying levels of spending and taxes would make decisions even harder — and might even push up spending. However, taking the spending total as fixed when the Budget deficit is high means a bias in favour of higher taxes.

At the cabinet's usual pre-Budget session two weeks ago, when the Chancellor just listens, one minister questioned whether it might not be a good idea to discuss

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

tax and spending together. But he was seen as a starry-eyed idealist. The spending side has now been largely settled, thanks partly to peer group pressure.

Every department has had to make sacrifices, including those like health and education whose budgets are still growing. So there was pressure on those ministers who had not settled to accept the hard medicine taken by the rest.

Most remaining points were sorted out in meetings with the prime minister and the Chancellor, enabling everyone to save face. The main unresolved issue is the size of the social security package — to compensate some of those affected by VAT on domestic fuel.

Mr Clarke faces tricky decisions in view of the uncertain state of the recovery and the need to reassure the markets that the deficit is being reduced. He has a reputation as a "political" Chancellor rather than a Treasury purist. Since we are back to traditional Treasury budget-making, it is all up to him now.

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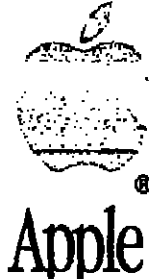
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Enquiry told of Westminster Council policy that Labour describes as 'a social cleansing scandal'

# Home sale plan aimed to import Tory voters



■ TONY DAWE reports on a four-year investigation into the latest controversy to affect the Tories' flagship council. Findings to be published later this month will decide whether Dame Shirley Porter, left, the former Westminster Council leader, was responsible for 'political gerrymandering'.

A TORY group on Westminster Council planned to sell council homes in marginal wards to people likely to vote Conservative, according to evidence given to a district auditor. Labour has called the policy a "social cleansing scandal".

The findings of a four-year investigation, expected later this month, will reveal the facts behind allegations that a Tory group chaired by Dame Shirley Porter, the former leader of Westminster Council, was responsible for "political gerrymandering".

The Times has learnt that John Magill, the district auditor conducting the enquiry, has obtained evidence that the group conceived a plan to concentrate the promotion of home sales in eight marginal wards after the Tories had nearly lost control of the council.

The plan involved selling council homes traditionally occupied by low-income Labour tenants to upwardly mobile owners, who were more likely to vote Conservative, at large discounts.

Mr Magill gathered some of his information during a search of council offices which unearthed copies of vital documents that had been shredded. Former Tory councillors have also given evidence about the plan.

The auditor is still in discussion with lawyers to determine whether anything illegal took place when the policy was finally implemented in a watered-down version. The Conservatives won the following election comfortably, taking all but one of the marginals.

If Mr Magill decides that former leading councillors, including Dame Shirley, David Weeks, her

## COUNTDOWN IN HOME SALES ENQUIRY

July 1989: formal objection lodged with district auditor by 13 Westminster residents, led by Neale Coleman, a Labour councillor.  
December 1989 and May 1990: submissions from Westminster council in response to the objections.  
June 1990: auditor begins to study papers in detail.  
December 1990: auditor conducts first of 150 interviews.  
December 1992: auditor reviews all the evidence and decides on need for further interviews.  
April 1993: search of council offices reveals new documents.  
November 1993: auditor's provisional report to be published.  
1994: public hearing into auditor's findings, followed by final report and possible court action.

successor as leader, and Barry Legg, now Conservative MP for Milton Keynes South West, were guilty of "wilful misconduct", he can ask the High Court to surcharge them to recover the losses to ratepayers resulting from the policy.

Labour has estimated those losses at a minimum of £10 million, including the cost of promoting home sales and accommodating homeless people who would otherwise have moved into the council properties.

Westminster's controversial housing policy, known as "designated sales", stems from the 1986 local elections in which the Conservatives came close to losing their flagship council. As the votes which gave the Tories a four-seat majority were being counted, Patricia Kirwan, the housing committee chairman, was confronted by Dame Shirley and told: "It's your policies which have nearly lost us this election."

Dame Shirley clearly thought



Terry Clark and Tina Harpham, Tory voters, outside their bargain Bayswater flat, formerly the home of a Labour supporter

by leading Conservatives on the council.

Graham England, Westminster's housing director, gave a warning that it was impossible to justify designating all properties in the eight wards for sale and was asked to produce a council-wide programme. He concentrated on the number of sales which could be achieved, instead of just listing properties for sale, and in July 1987 presented three options to the housing committee: continue with existing policies, achieve 250 designated sales a year, or achieve 500.

He said that the last option would substantially reduce the council's ability to house the homeless and would cut the supply of rented houses available to those on the waiting list of 9,000 names.

By this time Mrs Kirwan had been replaced as committee chairman after completing her four-year term and, despite Mr England's warnings, the "leadership group" railroaded through the plan to sell 500 homes, according to one disenchanted Tory councillor. However, it had obtained legal advice justifying its decision.

Figures produced by the Labour group show that in the "battle zone" wards 81 per cent of empty homes were designated while elsewhere the average was 36 per cent. Most of the 714 sales completed before the 1990 local elections also occurred in the key wards, with the highest concentrations in the three Labour marginals.

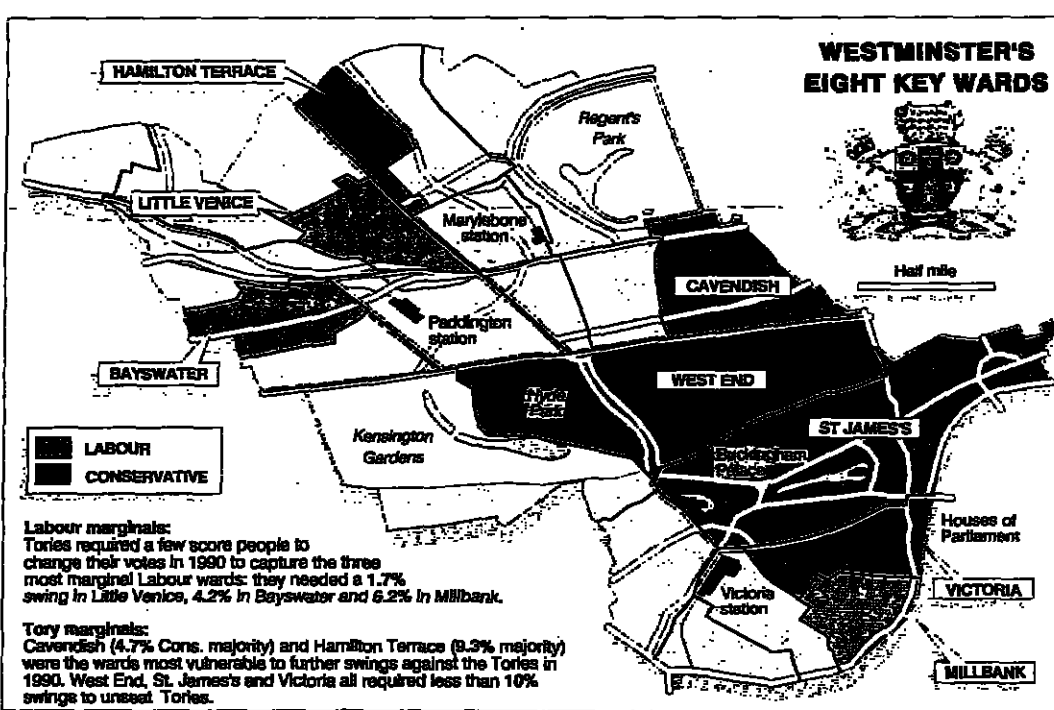
Peter Bradley, Labour's deputy leader in Westminster, said: "The policy has blighted communities. Young people whose parents and grandparents lived in Westminster

were unable to get accommodation if they could not afford a mortgage. It also created misery for families who were outgrowing their accommodation and were told they could not transfer to another rented property but could only buy one."

Conservatives have argued, however, that Westminster had a low level of home-ownership and the policy was the only way of boosting it because private property was too expensive and dominated by company and holiday lets. They said that most people who took advantage of the policy were Westminster tenants and only a handful could

be described as "yuppies from outside". The size of the Tory majority in the 1990 elections was far greater than the number involved in designated sales.

Advisers to Dame Shirley say that there is no evidence of wilful misconduct on her part and point out that, together with Mr Weeks and Mr Legg, she was not a member of the housing committee which took the final decision to implement the designated sales and related policies. All three have said they will fight any criticisms in the auditor's report "very robustly".



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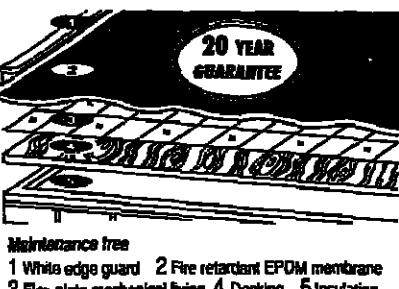
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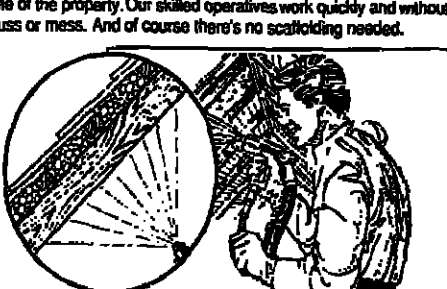
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## Scottish nationalist seeks voice in Europe

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

IAN Hamilton, the lawyer who stole the Stone of Destiny from Westminster Abbey and took it to Scotland in 1950, is attempting to become a politician at the age of 68.

Mr Hamilton, a QC and part-time oyster farmer, will be the Scottish National party's candidate for Strathclyde East in the European elections next June. He has had an on-off relationship with the party, but last year rejoined, saying "all the daffies that drove me mad have retired or been sidelined".

Mr Hamilton, who lives in Argyll, with his third wife Jeannette, said: "I'm not a natural politician. Natural politicians make a job of it for life. But I think people are fed up with the natural politicians because of the mess they've made of things."

He believes the European Parliament will be more important to the future of the Scots than Westminster. "British politics has degenerated into shouting stale slogans across a Thames theatre, but Scotland can escape from that and create our own new European democracy."

Mr Hamilton and accomplices stole the Stone of Destiny, on which ancient Scottish kings were said to have been crowned, to draw attention to their campaign for home rule. It was returned to the abbey four months later.

Mr Hamilton, who rides between courts on a motorbike, advocated civil disobedience if Scotland's water system was privatised.

## Reliant Robin holds off police in 70mph chase

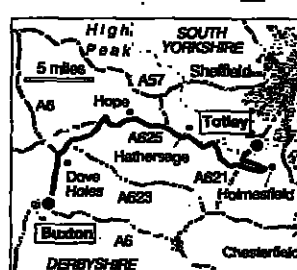
BY PAUL WILKINSON

SEVEN police cars from two forces were unable to stop a Reliant Robin three-wheeler during a 30-mile chase yesterday. The law only caught up with the 13-year-old glassfibre car when its driver turned into a cul-de-sac.

Two of the police vehicles were damaged in the pursuit through the narrow lanes of Derbyshire's Peak District at speeds up to 70 mph.

It began in the spa town of Buxton, shortly after lam, when police went to investigate a report that a vehicle had driven into a fence. A Reliant Robin could reach those speeds, but it did happen. It was apparently weaving all over the road.

A spokesman for the county force said: "It was not the sort of road where you can whizz past and pull the vehicle over. The officers followed it at a



safe distance until it was possible to stop the vehicle. Speeds did touch 70 mph in several places."

The Robin driver had made several attempts to ram a pursuing Range Rover and a Granada patrol car by reversing at speed towards them. As the vehicle drove at high speed along the A623 in the picturesque Hope Valley, tailing vehicles were ordered to pull back for fear the three-wheeler would spin off down a steep bank.

The chase came to an end in the Sheffield suburb of Todley when two patrol cars slewed across the road to the front and rear of the Robin. Both received minor damage.

A man was later bailed by police to appear before magistrates next month on charges including criminal damage, assault on police and motor offences.

## One wheel short of a motor

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

AS A high-performance car, the Reliant Robin lacks one important feature: four wheels.

The three-wheeler has always had an image problem: in *Only Fools and Horses*, the popular TV series, it was the main mode of transport of "Del Boy" Trotter and his dodgy doings.

For the most part, the 44,000 loyal owners in the UK drive their little cars with care rather than attempt to break any speed limits with only three wheels to keep them safely in contact with the road. The engine is only 850cc, the size of a motorcycle

engine, and offers about 45 brake horse power - about a third of the power under the bonnets of the police pursuit vehicles involved in yesterday's chase.

However, the car is very light, the body being made of fibreglass, and its short wheelbase makes it extremely manoeuvrable: where a full-sized powerful saloon needs to make a three-point turn, the Robin can turn round and be off in seconds.

Despite the Robin's "Del Boy" image, there is a dedicated following for the vehicle - enough for the Reliant factory at Tamworth, Staffordshire,

to be turning out 25 a week. The Robin is exported to The Netherlands and Austria while the vehicle's bigger sister model, the Fox, which uses the same engine and running gear, is being assembled at a factory in Russia.

Whatever the image, the Robin motors on. Stewart Halstead, Reliant's sales director, said: "Which other car can you drive for which you only need a motorcycle licence, pay half the road tax and get 70 miles to the gallon?" Not to mention reaching 70mph when pursued by police.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Farmer admits cruelty

A farmer was warned yesterday that she could be imprisoned because of cruel charges. RSPCA inspectors found goats, horses and ponies suffering from starvation and neglect when they visited two farms run by Davina Hughes, 62. Leominster magistrates' court was told.

Mrs Hughes admitted 14 charges of cruelty and causing unnecessary suffering. The case was adjourned for reports until November 22. Mrs Hughes of Leintwardine, Hereford and Worcester, was remanded on bail.

### Hoaxer jailed

Rachael Read, 19, of Fford, Oxfordshire, who made a hoax bomb call to Daltor barracks at Abingdon, Oxfordshire, after being jailed for the third time by a soldier has been jailed for 4 months by Abingdon magistrates.

### Suspect on run

Police are hunting for suspected armed robber who escaped from a prison van in Tonbridge, Kent. Brian McKay, 19, of Harrow, north London, is black, 5ft 9in tall. With a diamond in his tooth.

### Toddler killed

Matthew Brown, 2, was killed near his home in Caring Town, east London, by a truck driven by his father.

### Like minds

A dating agency set up in Northampton for "quirky people" has been inundated by replies.









# Hostage saga stirs French anxieties over Algerian conflict



Dumas fears "explosion" in the former colony

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

RELIEF in France over the return of three consular officials held hostage in Algeria was tempered yesterday by suspicion over the murky circumstances of their kidnapping and fear that France will be dragged deeper into the virtual civil war in its former colony.

Michele Thévenot was flown to Paris on Monday, 24 hours after her husband Jean-Claude and Alain Freissier were released by the supposed group of Islamic fundamentalists that took all three hostage in Algiers on October 24. Her return came on the 29th anniversary of the start of the insurrection that eventually drove France from Algeria. The hos-

## Three French citizens kidnapped in Algiers have been rescued. Paris is comforted, but the official story is being questioned

tages' return, after what was said to be a brilliant operation by the Algerian security forces, have officially comforted the French government as well as the thousands of French nationals who work in Algeria. Seven foreigners, including two Frenchmen, have been murdered, apparently by Islamic extremists, over the past month.

None of the hostages have said a word about their ordeal. Officials in Paris also refused to give details yesterday, citing security. The Algerian authorities, who are

fighting the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), gave their first account yesterday, saying the two men had been traced after a big security operation in which two wounded terrorists had revealed their hiding place. Four kidnappers were killed during the rescue.

The Algerian interior ministry said Mme Thévenot, who was released later near the city centre, was carrying a message containing "the usual threats against the international community". However, the wealth of contradictory

and implausible details surrounding the affair have prompted the French media to suggest that the official story is too good to be true.

The biggest inconsistency was the fact that the three had been kept alive. Algerian extremists have, until now, murdered their victims. Speculation has focused on the idea that a deal was done, possibly involving the French government, to win the hostages' release. *Le Monde* said the truth "is probably not as simple as it appears". Other newspapers wondered whether the consular officials may not have had other duties. M Thévenot, a former army pilot, looks like a military man.

The media have also given wide play to suspicions by some Algerians that the kidnapping might

have been staged by forces connected with the authorities to discredit the FIS or to put pressure on France. French officials make no attempt to conceal their fears that upheaval in Algeria could spill into France, bringing terrorism and massive immigration. An Algerian Muslim activist claimed last week that the FIS, outlawed in 1992 when it was on the verge of winning a general election, had set up a network of agents in France. Between two and three million Algerians live in France.

*Le Figaro* warned yesterday of the danger of "tens of thousands of Algerians demanding the benefit of asylum". This, it said, would play havoc with the government's attempt to curb immigration and cause political instability. Roland

Dumas, the former foreign minister, said Algeria was "on the verge of an explosion" with serious implications for France.

Ministers say there is little they can do to protect the 25,000 or so French passport holders in Algeria. Although most are dual nationals, some 7,000 are French expatriates. President Mitterrand said the government was considering advising them all to leave.

France has supported the military-backed government in its attempts to combat Islamic extremism but is worried about the failure of the authorities to defuse the popularity of the FIS. Alain Juppé, the foreign minister, last week urged Algiers to start moving towards democracy, adding that "the status quo is not tenable".

# Yeltsin lectures his ministers on need to respect the law

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin, anxious to quell fears of spreading authoritarianism in Russia, said yesterday that he would guarantee the separation of parliamentary and government powers and warned his ministers against overstepping legal limits.

In a stern speech to members of his government, he admitted that "a number of officials had abused their powers in writing draft decrees and implicitly chided Sergei Filatov, his chief of staff, who has suggested that Russia may not need a separation of executive and legislative powers. The president said: "This is a very crude mistake."

Mr Yeltsin's frank references to the often chaotic workings of his administration come after confusion over some draft decrees, notably those governing the working of the media and foreign trade. The president was said to have been angered by excessive clampdowns and the introduction of brief censorship of the press in the aftermath of last month's parliamentary uprising, for which Vladimir Shumeiko, the deputy prime minister, has been blamed.

It also reveals the extent to which control of government has slipped away from the Russian leader — a development for which he bears some responsibility after promoting a large phalanx of deputy prime ministers, whose scope was ill-defined and often overlapping — in an attempt to appease various factions over the past year and a half.

The stresses within the executive have been exacerbated by some ministers declaring their candidature for rival parties in next month's parliamentary elections. Yesterday President Yeltsin warned them against being in "a sultry mood", preparing to leave office. "I am concerned that some people are thinking that the days of the govern-

ment are numbered," he declared. "Whatever the composition of the federal assembly (the new parliament), we will fight for a government of market reform."

The fate of Mr Yeltsin's cabinet is far from clear, however, and the alliance of Viktor Chernomyrdin, the moderate prime minister, with Boris Yegorov, the more radical finance minister, and Yegor Gaidar, the economics minister, will come under pressure in the shake-up of the December ballot.

Mr Chernomyrdin is said to have asked the president for a guarantee that he will not be replaced as prime minister by Mr Gaidar, the original choice for the post. Originally appointed to appease the conservatives, Mr Chernomyrdin has become a close ally of the president, to the annoyance of Mr Gaidar and Mr Yegorov, who consider themselves to be the moving forces behind reform.

The radicals, who were told by Mr Yeltsin to curb their ambitions as long as the hostile parliament was still in session, on the promise of better things to come, will feel betrayed if the day-to-day running of the government is placed in the hands of Mr Chernomyrdin in a likely coalition cabinet after the general election.

Mr Yeltsin's battle with parliament may be over, but the success of his attempt to create a functioning system of separate powers in a country accustomed to rule by the decree of tsar or party is far from assured. He is still plagued by provinces pressing their claims for more autonomy from Moscow.

Faced with rumbling regional discontent and the prospect of sorting out a workable coalition government, Mr Yeltsin seems increasingly less keen on submitting himself to an early presidential vote next June. Kremlin sources say that he would prefer to continue to the end of his full term in 1996 and that he intends to seek the new parliament's approval for cancelling the planned early election.



A printer checking an early copy of *Pravda* as the newspaper, banned by President Yeltsin for a month, came off the presses in Moscow early yesterday

# Defiant *Pravda* thunders back in Soviet style

BY ANNE McELVOY

PRAVDA, unrepentant purveyor of communist orthodoxy and undigestible prose to readers nostalgic for the days of Soviet propaganda, went back on sale yesterday after a month-long ban, defying President Yeltsin's instruction to change its name or be closed down for good.

The paper, bearing its traditional masthead with Lenin's purposeful profile, was sold out by early morning. Carrying front-page pictures of demonstrators being beaten by police during last month's parliamentary rebellion under the headlines "The burning down of a whole epoch" and "Elections but no choice", the paper provided a strong contrast to the rest of the Russian press, broadly sympathetic to Mr Yeltsin.

Last week *Pravda* agreed to the Kremlin's demand that it replace Gennadi Solzhenitsyn as editor. Viktor Linnik, its foreign editor, was appointed. However, it refused to change its title, meaning "truth", and yesterday's issue thundered that "they can close *Pravda* but never the truth". It added,

in the best revolutionary rhetoric: "Let everyone know: we do not change our convictions. We remain a tribune for left forces and supporters of socialist values."

Forcing a change of editor may backfire on the authorities. Mr Linnik is considered cleverer than his predecessor. He has travelled widely, speaks impeccable English and is using the involuntary changes to redefine *Pravda* as "a truly civilised opposition newspaper".

This is the second time that the former Communist party organ, now owned by a Greek socialist, has risen from the dead. Mr Yeltsin banned it after the Soviet coup of August 1991 but reinstated it under pressure to revoke his blanket ban on communist organisations.

Mr Yeltsin now faces the difficult choice of allowing it to flout his authority by continuing with its old title, or closing it again at a time when he is anxious to convince Russians and the West that his crackdown on the press is only temporary.

# US to warm relations with China

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

A SUCCESSION of American visitors to Peking has indicated an end to the policy of treating China as an international pariah which was begun after the Tiananmen Square massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in June 1989. The seal will be set on this reconciliation by a November 19 meeting in Seattle between President Clinton and Jiang Zemin, his Chinese opposite number.

Charles Freeman, the US assistant secretary of defence and one of America's most experienced China hands — he was deputy chief of mission at the US embassy in Peking in the early 1980s — told his Chinese hosts at the end of his three-day visit yesterday: "I think it's just a matter of logic that, if you don't have contact and dialogue, it's easy to be unaware of the other side's viewpoint and to misinterpret that viewpoint on occasion. In other words, ignorance can breed suspicion and distrust."

Mr Freeman indicated Washington would not at present lift its sanctions on military sales to China. In praising Peking's peacekeeping role in Cambodia, he did not refer to its earlier support of the Khmer Rouge.

# Racism warning to athletes

FROM REUTER IN BONN

A LEADING German sports official has said that foreign athletes are right to be worried about visiting his country after American sportsmen were attacked by right-wing extremists in a nightclub in Oberhof, eastern Germany.

Helmut Digel, vice-president of the national Olympic committee, said Germany had not been as successful as other countries in fighting racism. "There is a justified fear abroad about visiting events in Germany," he told German radio. "We must now show we can hold events where foreigners can feel comfortable and take part in the competition without being attacked, hindered or insulted by right-wing radical groups."

The mayor of Oberhof, where two black members of the American Luge Federation were insulted by skinheads

and a white teammate who came to their aid was beaten on Friday evening, wrote a letter of apology to President Clinton. Five of about 15 skinheads suspected of the attack were detained by police but four were later released.

The incident reportedly followed a complaint by a huge team member, Gordy Sheer, about a swastika one skinhead was wearing.

Walther Tröge, the head of the German Olympic committee, condemned the attack and said it was not specifically aimed against American athletes. The US State Department said on Monday that it had contacted the Bonn government about the incident and believed local authorities would handle it appropriately.

Ron Rossi, the director of the US federation, said the team might drop out of compe-

tion later this season at the huge track in Oberhof, where the Americans had been training for a week. The incident brought Germany's problems with far-right violence back into the headlines after a relatively quiet summer following the firebomb deaths of five Turks in May.

Herr Digel said foreign concern about the violence, which has claimed almost 30 lives since Germany reunited in 1990, had played a part in Berlin's failure to win approval to hold the Olympic Games in 2000.

Racist violence was a social problem, not one confined to sport, and likely to spread as social woes such as unemployment rose, he said. "The social situation in eastern Germany is much more critical... so unrest is more likely there than in western Germany."

# Starvation stalks Unita stronghold

FROM SAM KILEY IN HUAMBO

THE ultimate luxury for most Africans is a house made from fired bricks with a roof of tin. But Manuel Chingunda's family survived the impact of a 250 lb bomb from a government jet because they lived in a mud hut with an old-fashioned thatched roof.

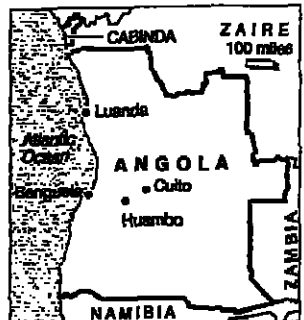
The bomb, the last dropped on Huambo since the government has observed a tenuous ceasefire with the Union for the Total Independence of Angola, dug a crater 6 ft deep in Mr Chingunda's vegetable patch two yards from his door.

The blast flattened his one-room hut with his four children inside it, but the mud walls broke the worst of it, and the youngsters escaped with minor cuts and

bruises. "Five other people nearby were blasted into pieces. There was nothing to bury," he said.

Both Unita and the government of Eduardo Dos Santos, have shown disregard for the lives of civilians in fighting which has raged across the country for the last 11 months. But in the last two weeks the two sides, faced with international and domestic condemnation for domestic Angolans they were killing or starving to death each day, have allowed the United Nations to fly emergency food and medical supplies into besieged towns.

Huambo, the capital of Huambo province, is Unita's headquarters. Government troops were driven out of the city a few months ago, but as they fled MIG bombers



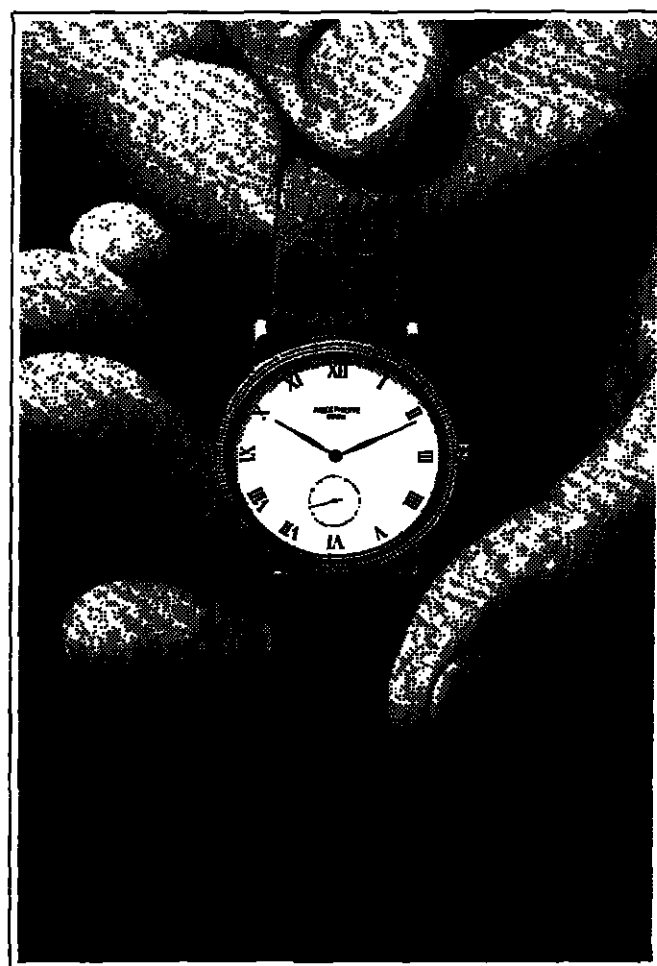
avenged the defeat by flattening much of the city.

Now that a relative peace has returned — fighting continues about 50 miles east where the government has been fighting its way back — the starving have emerged from the rubble. A central market has started to buzz a little with goods smuggled on a two-week journey from

Kinshasa, Zaire's capital. But all other economic activity remains at a standstill. Residents spend their days staring blankly at what is left of their houses and have to carefully pick their way around unexploded bombs. Worst hit are the poor. Filomena Maria, 28, spooned porridge into her son. His father was killed by government soldiers along with his two other children. Since then Maria has been living on boiled leaves. Doctors said that both mother and child would soon die.

Unita officials said yesterday that although medicines were needed urgently, food would only be needed to carry farmers through until their crops are harvested. UN agencies plan to deliver seeds and tools to the area.

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# We're all toads together in a hole

Libby Purves offers her own sequel to *The Wind in the Willows* — a tale for the 1990s of pushiness, media manipulation, vanity and lust

One of those 3 a.m. voices woke me up yesterday morning with the gnomic line: "We are all Toads now". Couldn't place it for a moment; then I remembered falling asleep reading a review of William Horwood's new sequel to *The Wind in the Willows*. I had felt uneasy, and not known why. But now, in the dark, reproachful watches of the morning, out of nowhere came the answer. It can't work, this sequel. It can't work because Kenneth Grahame's original was written in a different age, when boasting was still seen as a childish aberration: something embarrassing which gentlemen did not do.

But we are all toads now: PR toads, TV toads, stage toads, parliamentary toads: toads starting the week and meeting Clive Anderson, toads in *Hellos*, toads showing off their country cottages to magazine photographers. Or else we are corporate toads spending thousands on new logos, or we are dodgy City toads, ever ready to spring ourselves from jail (assisted, not by washerwomen, but by medical reports), announcing all the while that we did nothing wrong. Oh yes, and journalist toads too: with boastful picture by-lines everywhere as if our silly faces mattered. Today "Look at me!" is no longer regarded as a disgraceful, comical thing to say. It is strategic profile-raising. Good business.

In 1908, when Kenneth Grahame wandered by the riverbank, the competent, self-effacing Water Rat and humble domestic Mole were acceptable role-models. Modesty was still *de rigueur*: a chap belittled his own achievements and never mentioned the grandeur of his house. A lady, like Nancy Mitford's grandes dames, was embarrassed and offended if some parvenu guest praised the furniture. "So common, noticing people's things."

In Grahame's world, everyone felt comfortable laughing at Toad's boasting and materialist crazes; and everyone deplored his egocentric dishonesty. Today he would be profiled as "a baroque figure" with a "tremendous appetite for life". He would be asked to write articles about how he grew through his mistakes.

When Robert Maxwell took his final plunge, remember, it was days before his pension crookery was plain, and during those days commentators fell over one another to say how much poorer the world would be for the passing of this great "character".

Only the fact that he had mugged hundreds of washerwomen turned the tide: whereon lots of secondary toads popped up to explain how they had known all along. Like Mr John Gummer, who wrote an extraordinary letter to a pensionless con-



Preparing Toad for his jail-break

stituents, boasting that he himself had refused to work for Maxwell because he had reason to think he was "not an honourable man".

When you can brag about having seen through braggarts, things are changed indeed. For the past fifteen years, blowing one's own trumpet ("The Lady's not for turning...") has been acceptable political currency. Mr Major's real trouble is that he is a natural Ratty. At least, I hope he is. One sometimes fears he may be Mole.

In the real, unwritten sequel, Mr Toad becomes the hero. Sometime around 1980 he realizes that nobody pays any attention to country squires any more, gets a pair of red braces and makes a pile in the City. Thrown out for insider trading, he writes a vastly amusing and mischievous book about it and starts a PR agency in partnership with Matthew Freud (wittily called "ToadFreud").

Interviewed on a TV chat show, he looks around the studio dreamily and goes "Poop-poop! Poop-poop!", realizing that this is what he always wanted to do, more

than driving cars even: so he starts an independent production company and sells *Toad Talk* to BBC2. Tiring of this, he sells out to Hat Trick and writes a terrible sex-n terrorism novel called *Wild Wood* for Badger Publishing.

Then he returns to Toad Hall, insists on being described only as a "writer", and sets himself up as an eccentric aristocratic right-wing logey scribe, inviting only eight or ten selected profile-writers a week into the house to explain what a reduce he is and what peace he has found with his fifth wife.

And what, meanwhile, of Ratty and Mole? Well, of course, they "came out" in 1982, and have lived contentedly together ever since. Ratty went into the antiques business, and Mole into landscape-gardening. They still have little nocturnal expeditions, especially after a few snorts through a hollow reed, and return claiming to have seen the Great God Pan playing his pipes. The casual eye might find them unchanged since the first book; but I am sorry to say that they too are in the Toad culture. They no longer sit on his head: instead they cut out all the bits about him in the papers and love to go to his parties. For those who are not toads themselves have become toadies. No wonder I couldn't get back to sleep.

## Phoenix will rise from the ashes

Why do we prefer our idols to die young? Julia Llewellyn Smith on the way screen heroes become romantic legends after death

When River Phoenix became a pin-up, after the release of his first film *Stand by Me* in 1986, critics described him as "the new James Dean". They were thinking of his chiselled cheek bones, his intense stare and his gawky, adolescent slouch. Nobody thought that within a few years the two men would have another common bond — they would both have died before their time.

Phoenix was 23 when he collapsed and died outside a Hollywood nightclub and his career was far from flagging. If it had been, however, any marketing executive could have told him that dying young was the best possible way to revive it.

It was a week that also saw the deaths of Federico Fellini and Vincent Price, but everyone under 30 was talking about the young American who starred in cult films such as *My Own Private Idaho*.

"The under-30s had grown up with River Phoenix," says Fiona Gibson, the editor of *More* magazine, whose average reader is 19. "So his death was shocking and tragic, because he was so outspoken about living a clean life. We have already had grieving letters from readers, who say he will become known as one of the geniuses of our time."

"When I heard the news on the radio, I was ill in bed," says Penny Nagle, a 24-year-old pupil barrister, from central London. "I sat up and turned the light on — I was completely shocked. Since then, all my friends have been discussing him."

Now Miss Nagle is scouring the cinema listings to see where the handful of films in which Phoenix starred are showing. "My interest is definitely greater now he is dead than when he was alive," she says. "Before, you always knew there was time to watch his work, now you know that what there is is all we have. It's very sad when someone has potential that can never develop. I will never be able to marry him now."

From Romeo and Juliet to



James Dean, left, started a cult by dying young. The romantic reputation of River Phoenix, right, can only be enhanced by his death



in our minds as the peach-faced, 22-year-old whose plane crashed in 1955. Mick Jagger, on the other hand, is a depressing reminder that even fabulous wealth and the sexiest hip-wiggle in history do not stave off decay. John Lennon died from an assassin's bullet in 1980 and immediately attained guru-like status. His songwriting partner Paul McCartney is plugging vegetarian cookbooks.

Who knows, if Cilla Black or Cliff Richard had died in their teens, maybe every nightclub in town would display their posters and play their hits. We would sob over Cliff Richard

films on a Sunday afternoon, instead of searching for the remote control.

So will Phoenix now make the leap from a reasonably successful actor to a cultural icon? "We have been swamped with requests for anything starring River," said a spokesman for America's Blockbuster chain of video stores.

Brian Robinson, of the National Film Theatre in London, says: "It takes time for a cult to develop, but I think all the elements are there. As an actor he's definitely made an important impression in a number of films. He has all the dream aspirations of our society —

youth and beauty and a kind of power."

Moreover, while James Dean's Levi's and loafers epitomised the 1950s and set him up as the first teenager, Phoenix, with his funny name, hippy background and views on the environment was the prototype of 1990s man. He seemed vulnerable and not self-conscious," Miss Nagle says. "He was very far removed from glitzy Hollywood in his way of dress and the slightly unusual films he chose to make. He was completely in tune with grunge."

Obituaries, page 21

Whatever the pedants say, the year 2000 conjures its own magic. Philip Howard writes

## Getting ready for the fun de siècle

PETER BROOKE was mathematically and administratively, and boringly, correct when he announced that the 20th century would end not on the first stroke of midnight on New Year's eve 1999, but on December 31, 2000. There was no Year Dot, and so the new millennium will not begin until the old one has run its course. 2000 AD will still be part of the 20th century.

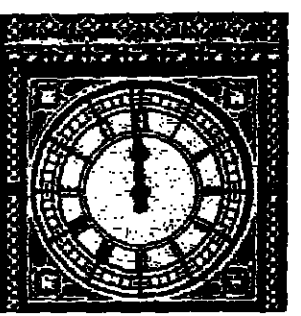
But tell that to the pedants. The national heritage secretary's calendrical correctness will not halt the premature celebrations. The superstition of round numbers has too strong a hold on the mathematically challenged. The switch from years starting with the digit 1 to years starting with the digit 2 is dramatic enough for a plain man to grasp, even though the millennium is not over for another year. And the passage of a thousand years is a portentous global birthday, for the wild bells to ring out new beginnings and indistinct forebodings.

The magic of the millennium is a Christian innovation, though it owes something to Jewish expectations of the end of the world. But the Christian belief in a coming millennium,

a thousand years of blessedness and righteousness, is set out in Revelation 20. Romans celebrated the sliding centuries with Secular Games, a *saeculum* being taken as a century or 100 years, counting from the date of the legendary foundation of the eternal city. But Christian dating fixed the potency of round numbers.

The momentous switch from BC to AD passed unnoticed at the time, except presumably by the Wise Men and the shepherds, because the chronological system of Anno Domini was not introduced until more than five centuries later. Dionysius Exiguus, a "Little", the Scythian monk and equivalent of Peter Brooke of his era, who brought in the new chronology, dated Christ's birth five to seven years too late. It is now too late to correct his mistake.

Millenary excitement started with the approach of 1000 AD. St Augustine,



Millennium countdown

shocked by the fall of Rome, prepared Christians for the end of the world after a millennium of Christianity. Psychosis swept educated Europe as the 10th century drew to its close, though it was exaggerated by later millenary sectarians for their own psychotic creeds. Most people, being illiterate and barely scratching a living from one day to the next, neither knew nor cared what year it was,

and if they thought about it in England, dated it from the year of a monarch's reign. When the new millennium came in, Ethelred the Unready was, aptly, on the throne. The world did not come to an end.

Thereafter to be living in the reign of Elizabeth, or particularly dates such as 1642, 1689 or 1789 had more resonance than the turning of a century. Until the 19th century. And then the combination of a long, successful reign in Britain, the Industrial Revolution, and the birth of the modern world in everything from the arts to science and industry, produced the feeling that became known as *fin de siècle*.

They got the date wrong then also. As the first stroke of midnight rang from Big Ben down Whitehall to Trafalgar Square, 100,000 Londoners sang and danced into what they erroneously took to be the start of the new century. The old queen's reign was inevita-

bly drawing to its close, and a century that had brought *Par Britannica* to the world and put the Great into Britain, was ending with a note of doubt. Kipling had just written his anti-triumphalist *Recessional*. The Boer War and conscience about the social cost of Empire sounded a warning.

TO JUDGE from the parties that have already been booked for the millennium, *fun de siècle* is replacing intimations of "The End is Nigh" this time round. Although the ticking of the chronological clock can produce sobering thoughts about the mortality of the planet, this does not look as imminent as it did a decade ago. We shall have to work out something harder to call the years of the new millennium than "Twenty-cleven". The end of a millennium is just a moment like any other on the clock. Change and decay in all around we see, every passing moment of every year. Birthdays are hell. But if Peter Brooke insists on going to bed early with a good book on January 31, 1999, he will be alone in his devotion to accurate chronology.

Leading article, page 19

### -20°C Minus Shelter

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Ulsterman Peter Millar looks back at the tortured homeland he walked out on

# A great place to come from

Nostalgia for the "old country" can catch you unaware. Sitting over a few beers with my American émigré cousins in California watching primitive home movies of childhood, it is unsurprising to fall into reveries about the "good old days" back in Northern Ireland.

I expected it less, however, ten days ago in a girls' bar in Hong Kong's "Susie Wong" Wanchai district. By luck I had met up with a school friend, whom for the sake of his privacy I shall call Billy, now a senior officer with the Royal Hong Kong Police. He was wondering what to do if and when things went awry when the colony reverted to China in 1997.

Feeling certain that he did not intend leaving his service revolver behind in such circumstances, I asked: "Do you mean going back to live there?" That snapped him out of it: "You must be joking. I'm buying a house in London." For those of us who make up the great middle-aged, middle-class Ulster diaspora, there is one consensus: Northern Ireland is a great place to come from, as long as you don't have to go back.

The first great, recent — in relative terms — wave of emigration from Ireland began in the closing years of the 18th century in the wake of the United Irishmen rebellion and the execution of Henry Joy McCracken and his co-conspirators in 1798. America was the chief beneficiary of this injection of disillusioned Irish, many of them Protestants, the ancestors of future presidents. America was the chief destination again nearly half a century later when the great potato famine decimated the population through starvation and emigration.

But the current troubles, now nearly a generation old, have taken their own toll, fuelling a brain drain from Northern Ireland, a voluntary evacuation of the upwardly mobile: those whose aspirations go beyond backstreet demarcation lines, in short the people the province needed most. Despite our stereotyped reputation as brawlers, the first — if not the last — instinct of most Ulstermen when they see trouble coming is to get out of the way. In a social club off the Shankill Road last week I met two middle-aged social workers who

cared for old people bemoaning their inability to sell their houses and escape the area. Over the past 30 years a prosperous, middle-class district reaching from the inner-city Shankill up the Woodvale and Ballygomartin roads, has been reduced to a network of ghost streets. The only ones left are those who cannot leave and the hard-liners who will have to be carried out feet first.

On a primary, local level, migration has been to the dormitory towns of the Antrim and Co Down coasts. My family, who had left the Shankill in the early 1950s, for the salubrious seaside air of Bangor, 12 miles down the road, were in their turn dismayed in the 1970s and 1980s to see the town swollen by a fresh, growing influx from Belfast. Great new council housing estates grew up, such as that nicknamed "the Ponderosa" because of its vast extent and homage to the

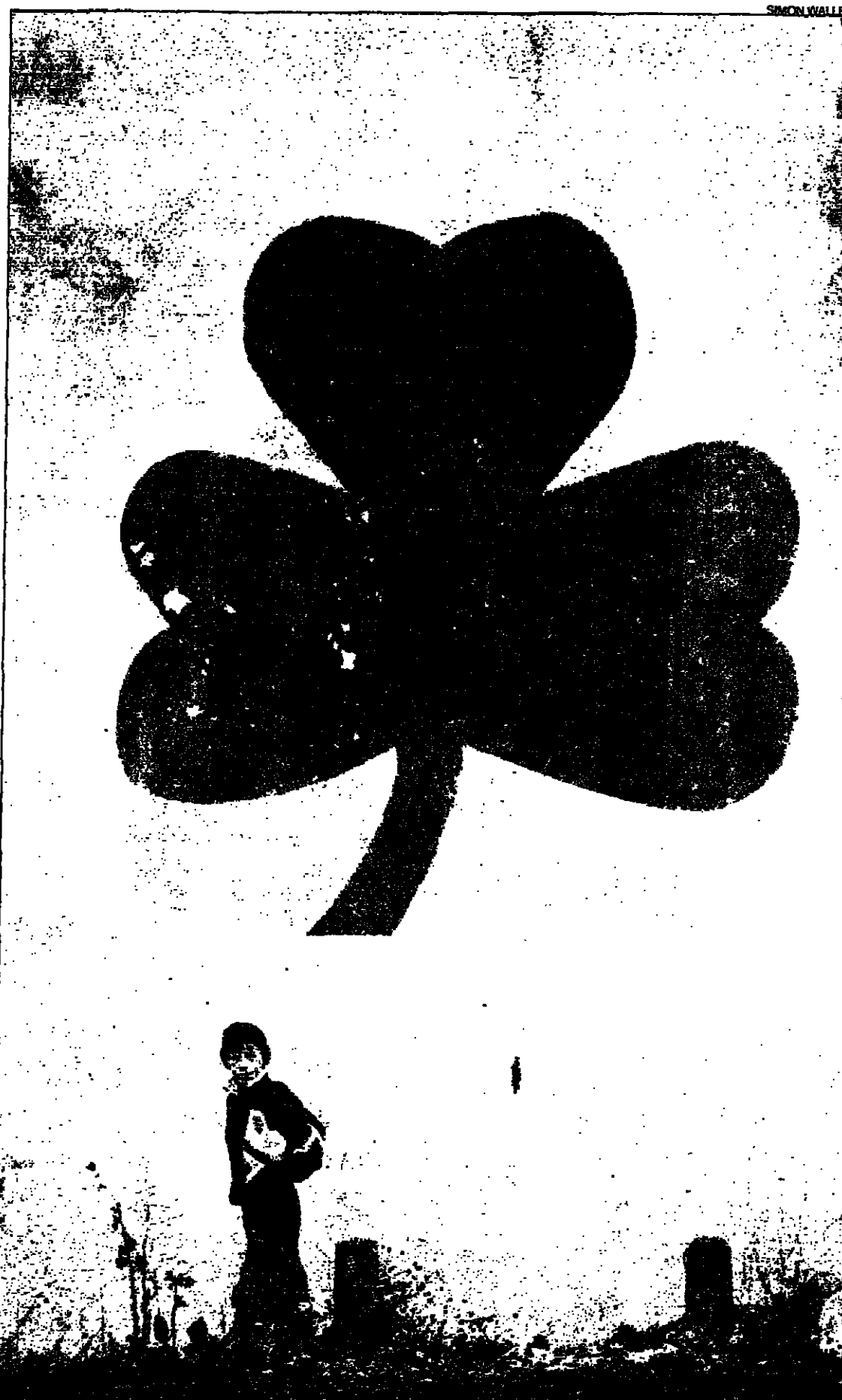
then cult television series *Bonanza*. The planner's idea was to merge the two communities but the people who moved in brought their own race memories.

Those of us who went to the good local grammar school still tapped our feet in time to the stirring martial bands on the 12th of July, but we also watched with a cynical titter to see whether "King Billy" would have one too many and fall off his horse. We did not take it too seriously, which, in the climate that was growing, was a good thing only up to a point.

As the bombs and bullets crept nearer — Bangor Main Street was taken out by 450lb of explosive one night when I was 17 — those of us who managed the qualifications escaped through higher education. We knew already at 18 that there was a choice for life to make: those who opted for a place at Belfast's respectable Queen's University were opting to stay, those who went "across the water" to England or Scotland, were unlikely to come back.

To a certain extent, this was no more than the force of gravity at work: the natural attraction of the heavyweights towards the centre, London. Though some went further, to the old empire — I have schoolfriends in Hong Kong and Australia — or the new Europe, another lives in Heidelberg and works as an interpreter for the EC in Brussels.

In Ulster terms, leaving was a political statement. In mainland Britain we became expats in our own country. There is a sense in which those who left Northern Ireland in



In the land of tribal symbols — a child plays beneath a giant mural painted on a wall in Belfast

the past 20 years have become ambassadors, giving the lie to the easy assumption of savagery that people who have never been there can glean from news reports. The comedian Frank Carson did much to show that Ulster's distinctive guttural accent could be funny as well as fierce; the "made-for-TV" dynasty of Gloria Hunniford and Caron Keating showed there were Ulsterwomen on a par with Angela Ripston and Selma Scott instead of just Bernadette Devlin.

Today, returning to Northern Ireland on a short visit, I am struck not

so much by atrocities too abominable to be taken in by the consciousness, but by how much it ostensibly has to offer. Belfast is one of the most attractive northern British cities, far outshining other industrial rivals such as Leeds or Manchester. As a child, with no experience of those grim northern British cities, I was unaware of the comparative charm of Belfast's grand Victorian architecture outlined against the dark green Antrim hills. And there is more than that: a feeling of warmth despite the horror.

Even now, albeit strained by the

events of the past two weeks, Belfast's city centre bars and shopping streets exude a sense of self-sufficient identity, a friendliness and sense of community that confounds the headlines.

It lasts even as the paperboy with his familiar, ancient and unintelligible cry proffers that night's copy of the *Belfast Telegraph*. Only then do the latest statistics of carnage remind those of us who long ago took the coward's road and voted with our feet, that Northern Ireland is "a nice place to visit but I wouldn't want to live there". That is the tragedy.

## In praise of a processor

How a mechanical illiterate fell in love with her computer

IT ALL began with the word processor, this great sea change in my life. By all rights it should have been the death of me — the final defeat in my life-long war of attrition with inanimate objects. Its ancestors — typewriters — had, after all, been in the front line of this battle. I had never owned a typewriter which I did not end up loathing. But the word processor was a different thing altogether.

First, it was intelligent: it could manipulate and adapt what was fed into it rather than simply spitting out all one's mistakes. But there was more to it than that. On the one hand, it was much more difficult to use than a typewriter: there was an arcane new language to master and much more to do in co-ordinating its satellites, like discs and printers.

But when all that was done, you had more than a sense of accomplishment — you had a friend. Admittedly its banter was rather limited: often no more than a bewildered question mark, but at least it was not smugly mute. And given half a chance it performed impressive tasks which left one feeling elated with power and efficacy.

I was entranced with this benign, co-operative presence in my study. I bought it presents — a set of dust covers, a cleaning kit for its monitor screen. There was more to come. I became cocky about my startling ability to decode the most impenetrable manuals, buying new software programmes and teaching myself to use them for the sheer joy of it.

My husband and children were flabbergasted. What had happened to the woman who could not understand the mechanical principles involved in un-

locking a garden gate? With my new confidence, came an affection for all things electronic. Multi-function telephones, fax machines with built-in memory, diabolically sophisticated video recorders with hideously convoluted instructions — nothing was beyond me now. Instead of bleating for help from a teenage offspring when any humming appliance fell dumb, I would simply dive into its manual like an obsessive schoolboy and

come up with the answer myself. The euphoria became addictive. I updated all of our equipment relentlessly with state of the art communications toys. In the end, Dixon's catalogues had to be hidden from me.

Oddly, my husband who is a mechanical genius of the old school, has been rather left behind in this. He can repair anything that involves visible objects that relate to one another in real space but is completely foxed by a matt black box with a lot of identical buttons. Which brings me to my theory of why someone like me should have become a whiz with electronic gadgetry.

As I was always told as a child, I am useless with my hands. So hopeless was I said to be at manual tasks that I gave up on the whole enterprise at an early age and retreated into more abstract recreations. My lack of interest in material things became almost otherworldly. Such judgments about oneself are, of course, self-reinforcing. A great many people — particularly women — seem to suffer from just this kind of resignation about mechanical know-how.

This prejudice became ideological in my political youth: I was a devout campaigner against what was known in the 1960s as the "technical-managerial elite" whose specialised knowledge of the new information technology was going to be a threat to us all. Of course, in those days, a lot of impressionable people were getting rather over-excited about computers replacing human beings in matters of moral and aesthetic judgment, which did sound very sinister.

When all that hyperbole had died down, the real virtue of electronic machines became clear to mechanical imbeciles like me. That is that they are almost entirely abstract in their functioning. You do not have to fit thingummies into widgets to make them work. You simply have to understand the logic that ticks away in their simple little brains. And most important, they did not exist when we were children so no one ever told us that we were useless at operating them.



JANET DALEY

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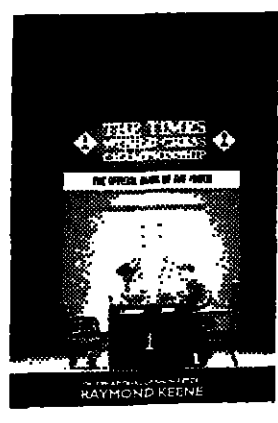
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## Raising the standard

The 12-starred flag of the European Community is drab and uninspired — could this be a replacement?

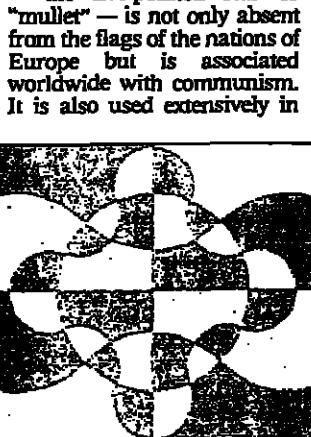
A great flag possesses colour, pattern, boldness, simplicity, history and heraldry. A flag must capture an identity. Its design must be distinctive even at a distance, unique and instantly recognisable.

The bold white cross on a square red field, Switzerland's flag, combines these qualities to perfection, as does Sweden's offset golden cross on a blue field. France's tricolour, adopted in 1790 on the pattern of the Netherlands' tricolour of 1590, is another good example, but it suffers too much from imitation and, in turn, its imitators are not sufficiently distinguishable. Who can separate Ireland from Italy at a glance?

Our own Union flag or "Union Jack" is an example of the historical evolution of a flag into a highly distinctive pattern which is certainly one of the great flags of the world. In its turn it has given rise to many fine derivatives. The habit of placing it in one corner of the field (the "canton") of a larger flag led not only to many home variants, of which the white Ensign is perhaps the most splendid, but to Commonwealth flags of distinction, such as Australia's.

The Stars and Stripes of the United States is based on this same British tradition, having evolved gradually over the years 1707-1777 from our Red Ensign. It will be a hard act for Australia to follow if she, too, becomes a republic.

By contrast, the flag now used by the European Community has little to commend it. Consisting of a circle of 12 insignificant stars on an azure field, simplicity is its sole virtue. It has no historical authenticity, lacks visibility at a distance, and its only symbol — the five-pointed star or "muller" — is not only absent from the flags of the nations of Europe but is associated worldwide with communism. It is also used extensively in



Computer generated — a new flag for Europe

American and (together with the crescent) Islamic flags. It is, indeed, the most potent symbol with which to describe something not Europe. Moreover, by some accident of design, all the stars are arranged with a point at the top, so that the flag can be flown upside down.

This weak and ineffective design is not surprising, given its origin. It was borrowed from the consultative assembly of the Council of Europe, which invented it in 1953 with 15 stars, one for each member nation. Two years later the number was reduced to 12, thought to be a more perfect number.

The European Community

needs its own flag, bold, colourful, recognisable and devoid of alien symbols, one which can fly bravely next to the Stars and Stripes. There is nothing wrong with yellow and azure as colours, and continuing to use them is a suitable gesture to the Council of Europe.

Modern mathematical developments and computer graphics have thrown up dozens of beautiful patterns using circles and arcs to provide inspiration. One such, which appeared during a study of Venn diagrams, is peculiarly appropriate because Venn diagrams may always be presented in just two colours.

Colour, pattern, boldness, simplicity, history, heraldry — this modern design has all the required qualities, if for "history" we can substitute some interpretations of the pattern. Its fourfold symmetry reflects the cross of European heraldry without emphasising it unduly, whilst the intersections can symbolise the interdependence of the nations of the community. The monogram "EC" can be traced in the pattern in numerous ways and its colours are those of the flag it replaces.

Let there be a competition among the member states of Europe to see if it can be bettered, and may the best flag win.

ANTHONY EDWARDS  
The author is a fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

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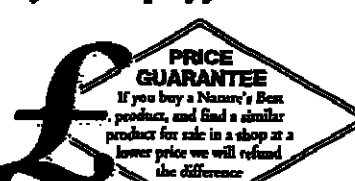
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## A GLIMPSE INTO THE BOX

Early indications about the Budget are discouraging

Kenneth Clarke came to the Treasury with a reputation as a tough practical politician — an active minister, ready to defy vested interests, willing to stand up for common sense against unwieldy or complacent advice. It must be hoped that this original impression was correct and that Mr Clarke's first Budget will reflect that. Early indications suggest, however, that the man who was going to lead the Treasury along a bolder course has been infected with Micawberish caution.

Because of the excessive secrecy which continues to stifle pre-Budget economic debate in Britain, it will not be possible to make a fully informed judgment on Mr Clarke's policies until November 30 — by which time it will, of course, be too late for any of these policies to be changed. But the hints and leaks coming out of the Treasury, the Bank of England and the government suggest that Mr Clarke is shying away from any policy his officials describe as "risky", and dodging decisions which might cause cabinet colleagues and backbenchers difficulty or distress. "Steady as she goes" appears to be Mr Clarke's motto. The possibility that the economy may actually be heading towards another sand-bank ought to worry him more.

The Chancellor's public statements show that he recognises the three great economic challenges that now face Britain: to stem the fiscal haemorrhage from the government's budget; to bolster the feeble and uncertain pace of economic recovery; and to revive the exporting businesses which Britain needs to pay its way in the world. But what little Mr Clarke has done in his six months as Chancellor suggests that his main response to all these challenges is simply to hope for the best.

Mr Clarke has done nothing yet either to reinforce recovery or to start curbing the public sector borrowing requirement. As for his vaunted ambition to help British manufacturers and exporters cope with the European economic slump, Mr Clarke has

actually made their lives more difficult by welcoming a rise in sterling which has eroded almost half the competitive gains that followed Britain's exit from the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Until this month, Mr Clarke had a good excuse for these omissions. The Treasury argued, with justice, that any significant changes in economic policy should wait until the Budget, when fiscal and monetary policies could be rebalanced, reducing public borrowing and simultaneously stimulating investment and exports through lower interest rates. But now, as the moment of truth approaches, the Bank of England seems to be blocking any significant interest rate cut and calling for a stronger pound — repeating the errors of economic analysis it made before Black Wednesday.

On public spending, the Treasury has stuck to its agreed ceiling, but mainly, it seems, through savage cuts in the capital investment and transport spending needed by industry, which the prime minister has promised to defend. By contrast, unproductive social spending and middle class subsidies appear to have emerged unscathed and even defence spending has come off lightly compared with the Treasury's depredations against London Transport and British Rail. Meanwhile, the Tory backbenches are warning Mr Clarke against all tax increases, whether or not they allow lower interest rates.

These early indications of a mealy-mouthed, shapeless Budget, which does nothing either to improve public finances or to stimulate recovery, may turn out to be wrong. Perhaps Mr Clarke is sending out confusing signals to make his real Budget look bolder when it comes. The government and the country can only hope so. For this Budget offers Mr Clarke his best, and perhaps his last, chance to save Britain from a vicious circle of economic stagnation and ever-rising public borrowing. He must seize this chance, even if that means upsetting backbenchers and rejecting official advice.

## MR BROOKE'S MILLENNIUM

Pedantry will not spoil the party

Tinkering with time has always been a temptation of power. The modern calendar takes its name from Pope Gregory XIII, who made ten days vanish from the year 1582. Between 1793 and 1805, the French revolutionaries imposed their own curious calendar which had no weeks but included five feast days called *sans-culottides*. The ruler who has conquered time fears no enemy. In his gentlemanly way, Peter Brooke fell prey to this ancient political instinct this week, when he declared that the 20th century will officially end on December 31, 2000 rather than New Year's eve, 1999.

For a government that claims to be rolling back the frontiers of the state this was an oddly dirigiste (and certainly pointless) pronouncement. A Commons written reply by the heritage secretary that the millennium will begin a year later than most prospective revellers had hoped will not stop the champagne corks popping. Moreover, Mr Brooke did not offend merely against common sense and his party's own principles: he also underestimated the millennial forces with which he was dealing.

It is a popular sense, not an arithmetical fact, that a vast span of human history is drawing to a close. The millennium inspires feelings, not the need for facts. Some forebodings are as old as the faith which underpins the modern calendar. In his masterpiece, *The Pursuit of the Millennium*, Norman Cohn has vividly described the myriad sects and movements which have prepared fervently for the Last Days since Christianity's beginnings. Many, like the 15th century Taborites in Bohemia and the 17th century Levellers in England, wholly detached themselves from society in order to ready themselves for the Second Coming.

Few of these men and women were appreciated at the time. Perhaps we should see a modern example in the New Age travellers, a new tribe of malcontents and dissenters who have excluded themselves from the mainstream. More likely, however, contemporary millennialism is assuming novel forms. In the aftermath of the Cold War and of the first wave of the environmental movement, apocalypticism seems to be declining. Fewer people believe the end to be nigh than did so ten years ago. The concerns of the current millennium are different and more subtle. They have more to do with moral malaise than with abject terror.

Today's seers must deal not with an imminent Big Bang but with the constant challenge to society from population growth, environmental degradation, technological revolution, changing moral norms, the greater mobility of people, and the hectic global flows of information and capital. Susan Sontag has spoken of "apocalypse from now on". The historian Francis Fukuyama has predicted that the "last men" who will populate the newly democratised world will be bored, enervated creatures.

Certainty — even in the arithmetical of calendars — is a thing of the past. Few today would treat the assumptions of a Fukuyama or a Sontag as immutable prophecies. The most striking change in mankind's intellectual universe since the last millennium has been the rejection of all doctrines which seek to chain man to a theory of inevitability, from religious belief in providence to the Marxist notion of historic determinism. This millennium — whenever it begins officially — will be a celebration of man's capacity and responsibility to shape the centuries that lie beyond it.

## SELL IT WITH FLOWERS

But one man's feature is another man's eyesore

It is said that three things drive men mad — money, sex and property — but that the greatest of these is property. In the 1990s, negative equity has given a new edge to that adage. The selling of houses has become for many the most maddening of nightmares.

Tips on "how to sell" are the 1990s' obverse of the previous decade's tips against gazumping. Today we report advice from the National Association of Estate Agents: sellers should ensure that buyers sit in a "strategic" chair, with the best view from the house, preferably overlooking some greenery brightened up with winter pansies. The dining room table should be laid to give the impression of a happy family home — presumably one in which mealtimes are not staggered to fit the evening TV schedules. And flowers are a must.

One might think that any true potential buyer, when assailed by the mingled aromas of freshly baked bread and newly ground coffee, would be immediately suspicious. A bunch of fresh flowers in every room ought to alert the visitor to suspect drains. The smell of fresh paint should make him or her hunt for cracks in the wall: the sound of Mozart should warn of the local motorway outside. Yet, it seems that it does not.

Many buyers, it is said, know the minute they step over the threshold that a house is

for them. Many others are happy to buy a style of life rather than a mere house. Fifteen minutes spent listening to the minutiae of the house's cavity wall insulation is often time wasted on both sides. If the viewer has already winced over the gold taps, it is painful as well as pointless to hear the estate agent boast about them. Few things are more annoying, at any time, than a lecture on central heating systems and built-in cupboards.

The notion of decorating a home for sale is now out of fashion. In the high and palmy 80s buyers saw house after house that had been done up by developers in a style that made them choke. The idea was that people did not want to have to do much work. DIY (do it yourself) had been replaced by GID (get it done).

But in the recessionary 1990s, this principle has been turned on its head. The scruffier the house, the more of a bargain it looks. If it has been recently decorated, buyers feel extravagant about repainting or repapering the rooms, however much they hate the colour schemes. A yellowing wall with children's graffiti on it provides the perfect excuse to redecorate without guilt. And, while the paint is being applied, the coffee will be grinding, the music playing and the pansies blooming — just as they were on the day the house was bought.

## Need to integrate in N Ireland

From Mr A. E. C. W. Spencer

Sir, "Only talking" about Northern Ireland (Riddell on Politics, November 1) is not enough: the government must take action to weaken segregation there and to promote integration. In the 1980s my colleagues and I in the integrated education movement demonstrated that it can be done.

Since 1981, when we founded Lagan College south of Belfast, another score of integrated schools have opened in all six counties. Likewise, it can be done in the family home: despite the opposition of the churches, latent or manifest, the available evidence suggests that more Catholics are marrying Protestants. It could be done in housing and employment if government and its agencies really tried.

I have passed through Greysteel many many times over my 23 years in Northern Ireland. The shooting at the Rising Sun pub there illustrates my concern that government should foster and protect centres of growth for integration.

Greysteel is one of many hundreds of such centres, but because these are peaceful, friendly communities they are left to themselves, and the massive security effort in Northern Ireland is focused on the segregated communities.

In a non-consensual society integration needs protection: hundreds of communities like Greysteel have become segregated because they have lacked government protection in their hour of need.

Since 1968, in the two areas most susceptible to government influence — housing and employment — we have seen more segregation, not less: not because governments have not cared but because in both the security and constitutional arenas they have focused attention and resources on the quick fix.

If government would start long-term programmes to foster and protect centres of growth for integration we could reasonably hope for a generally acceptable resolution of Northern Ireland's problems a generation hence.

Yours faithfully,  
A. E. C. W. SPENCER,  
Garden Flat, 11 Fairmile,  
Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire.  
November 1.

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, When will our leaders realise (or if they already do, show signs of it) that political terrorism is about all or nothing: total victory or total defeat? To reaffirm a desire for peace talks after IRA (and Loyalist) "outrages" is to play into terrorist hands.

The present violence has already lasted 25 years. It will go on indefinitely so long as the UK treats it as crime, to be countered by police action (with military support) and judicial process. It is in fact an internal war, which could be ended in the defeat of the terrorists within three or four months, if recognised and treated as such.

Since any "settlement" short of the absorption of Ulster by the Irish Republic is unacceptable to the IRA, the only way out, for the British side, as Simon Jenkins has rightly pointed out ("A bomb for big boys", October 27), is through democratic devolution to the *de facto* county of Northern Ireland.

Is this what Mr Major and his Cabinet want? Or would they prefer to defeat the terrorists?

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN CROZIER,  
Kulm House,  
17b Dolf Avenue, Finchley, N3.  
November 1.

From Mr Roy Brown

Sir, How can it possibly be argued that internment in Ireland worked in the 1930s and in 1962 (leading article, "An insecure policy", November 2)? The events of the past month are clear evidence that it did not.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY BROWN,  
29 Kingswood Road,  
Gillingham, Kent.  
November 2.

## Up to the Mark

From the Leader of Wealden District Council

Sir, So John Beishon, chief executive of the Consumers' Association, doesn't know why the winners of Charter Marks received their awards (report, October 28). Perhaps he should have a word with Lady Wilcox who represented the National Consumer Council on the advisory panel which considered the evidence from the applicants.

This council was just one of the 93 public-service organisations proud to receive a Charter Mark. We earned it for a series of imaginative initiatives by the leisure services department, including a very successful scheme to help long-term patients of local GPs regain health and fitness.

Back by all means when things are wrong. Mr Beishon. But Charter Mark winners are getting things right. Praise where praise is due would be welcome.

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD CHIDSON,  
Leader,  
Wealden District Council,  
Council Offices, Pine Grove,  
Crowborough, East Sussex.  
October 29.

## Seeking clarity on definition of repetitive strain injury

From Mr Campbell Semple, FRCS

Sir, Your leader of October 30 on repetitive strain injury (RSI), "Repeat after me", strikes me as being very partial. Judge Prosser formed his judgment (*Mughal v Reuter*, report, October 29) following three weeks of detailed expert evidence in court. He also read the many learned scientific articles and serious medical papers which conclude that there is precious little support or evidence for the existence of RSI as a disease entity in the upper limb — save for specific varieties of tenosynovitis, and then only as a consequence of strenuous or unaccustomed activity.

The judge's reference to "eggshell personalities" was a quotation from a medical paper by an Australian psychiatrist, commenting on the Australian epidemic of RSI in the mid-1980s. A significant element in the resolution of that epidemic was a similarly careful and thoughtful judgment in the face of strident pressure in the Australian popular media. It is unreasonable to brand a British judge with this quotation in isolation.

Numerous authoritative bodies have roundly condemned the use of the phrase repetitive strain injury, precisely because it is a meaningless description in medical terms. Industrial relations in this country would benefit if newspapers such as yours restricted themselves to accepted medical terminology.

I am unaware of any "documented examples of ambitious dedicated people being forced to give up a job they enjoy because of RSI" that have been published in any accepted peer-reviewed medical journal. *Mughal v Reuter* was the first High Court case, and perhaps the first case anywhere, to be pursued on the basis of RSI as the precise diagnosis, as opposed to conditions such as tennis elbow, carpal tunnel, etc, for which there are cogent arguments on both sides as to whether they can be aggravated by industrial/office work.

It is of the utmost importance to establish the definition of what exactly it is that the patient/client/plaintiff is suffering from. Only then should we consider whether the condition has, or has not, been caused or exacerbated by his workplace.

Yours faithfully,  
CAMPBELL SEMPLE,  
79 Harley Street, W1.

From Dr Richard Mayou

Sir, Your leader rightly stresses the long history of accounts of the con-

dition now increasing and referred to as repetitive strain injury. It might also have stressed the equally long history of argument about the role of the mind and the body as causes of this and many other physical complaints.

It is unfortunate that a strict dualism remains so prevalent in comments by sufferers, lawyers, doctors and other interested parties on this disorder, and on syndromes such as chronic fatigue, alleged allergies and back pain.

These complaints are seen as being due to either physical pathology (i.e., genuine) or to various pejoratively described psychological factors (neurosis, hypochondria, malingering, eggshell personality).

It should instead be recognised that psychological as well as physical factors contribute to the ways in which individuals perceive and respond to physical symptoms.

It would be remarkable if this were not so in the cases of RSI, since personality, circumstances, family attitudes and the nature of medical and other advice are important determinants of the wide variation of individual response to all physical illness.

For instance, an uncomplicated heart attack can be expected to cause an initial period of anxiety and depression, and in a sizeable minority of people, persistent distress and associated effects on everyday life.

Such continuing problems may be attributable to individual personality; but they are determined by social factors such as the loss of a job involving heavy manual work, an over-protective family, or difficulties in resuming active physical hobbies and sports.

It would, as your leader argues, be sensible to see RSI as an unsatisfactory descriptive term relating to a range of medical problems. Attempts to provide arbitrary definitions will make it more difficult to offer good individualised planned medical care, sensible conditions of employment or appropriate compensation.

We shall not advance medical understanding until there is wider recognition that acceptance of the significance of psychological factors does not imply moral weakness, inadequate personality or malingering.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
RICHARD MAYOU,  
University of Oxford,  
Department of Psychiatry,  
Warneford Hospital,  
Oxford.  
November 1.

## Forest flaws

From the Director of The Ramblers' Association

Sir, The draft strategy for the National Forest in the Midlands of England, referred to by Susan Bell (letter, October 28), contains many imaginative ideas, but also two fundamental flaws.

The first is that its proposals for public access mark a long retreat from the Countryside Commission's original vision of the forest. In 1987 the commission said the forest should be modelled on the New Forest in Hampshire, where there is freedom to roam over almost the whole area. But the strategy allows for public access mainly via existing rights of way and perhaps a few new permissive paths.

The second flaw is that the strategy deals only with what the commission wants to achieve — it says little about how the forest is to be established and paid for.

Those matters are covered in the National Forest business plan, a secret document on which there is to be no public consultation.

The plan presumably contains details of how several million pounds of taxpayers' money will be used to create the National Forest. It is therefore surely reasonable to ask that the taxpayer be given an opportunity to comment on the plan before it is approved by government.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN MATTINGLY, Director,  
The Ramblers' Association,  
1-5 Wandsworth Road, SW8.

## VAT on books

From Lieutenant Commander Richard Frampton

Sir, The importance of books and the written word, especially during National Library Week, cannot be over-estimated, as Lord Blake stressed so forcibly in his article of October 30, "VAT cannot balance the books".

Over the past 70 years the Marine Society's Seafarers' Libraries have not only provided a welcome alternative to boredom at sea, but have also triggered off in many a seafarer the desire to progress an interest or improve his or her qualifications.

Many of those seafarers who set off down the path of reading a book provided by the society have become senior managers, lecturers, consultants and professors as a result.

VAT on books would be a major obstruction to many people's education and hopes for a better quality of life.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD FRAMPTON  
(General Secretary,  
The Marine Society,  
and Chairman of Governors,  
The London Nautical School),  
202 Lambeth Road, SE1.  
November 1.

## Dormouse returns

From Mrs Dot Eaton

Sir, It is marvellous that National Dormouse Week has raised public awareness of the native endangered dormouse (report and leading article, October 28). So much good work is planned investigating possible dormouse sites.

Whilst it is true that a reintroduction took place in Cambridgeshire this year, the first successful reintroduction was carried out in 1992 in the grounds of Hailbury College. Two established families of dormice were placed in a cage in the wood before release. These captive-bred animals safely hibernated in the wild before breeding early this summer.

I founded this dormouse project in 1982. With the combined efforts of all now working with the common dormouse perhaps it will once again become "common".

Yours faithfully,  
DOT EATON,  
Bunglow 3,  
Windsor Safari Park,  
Windsor, Berkshire.  
November 1.

From Lady Pond

Sir, Your leading article, "Of mice and men", was of great interest in a household plagued by a dormouse. He, or

From Dr Peter Buckle

Sir, I was called as an expert witness in the *Mughal v Reuter* case, and I have considered the full judgment. In what is a complex medical and scientific debate I believe that the judge has opted for opinion over science.

There is no evidence to support the "conversion" theory proposed by Judge Prosser, by which psychological ills are expressed in the form of physical symptoms. The existence of such a theory is owed to the lack of a completely proven scientific basis for a pathological explanation.

What the judge has not done, in my view, is to compare critically the currently available scientific evidence with the unsubstantiated opinion of a very few individuals. He seems, for instance, not to have taken into account an authoritative scientific paper, included in the court papers, which was published earlier this year by ten leading scientists (seven of them medically qualified) representing the national institutes of occupational health for the USA, Sweden, Finland and Denmark, among others.

This paper (*Scandinavian Journal of Work Environment and Health*, 1993, 19, pp 73-84) provides ample scientific evidence for the existence of such problems and explains the confusion over terminology as well as outlining mechanisms for their possible causation.

Few scientists would doubt the importance of other, non-work-related or socio-psychological factors in determining the pattern and natural history of these disorders. Equally, it is true that all pain has a psychological component and that the psychological make-up of each sufferer is important in the expression of pain.

However, this does not allow us to dismiss the fact that where many people who are suffering problems have been exposed to the same or similar work, the work-relatedness of the conditions must be seen and treated as significant.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER BUCKLE  
(Head of Ergonomics),  
University of Surrey,  
Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH.  
October 30.

From Dr Stephen Castell

Sir, Life is a repetitive strain injury. Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN CASTELL,  
20 Grange Road,  
Wickham Bishops, Witham, Essex.  
November 1.

more probably she, lives under my kitchen/dining room floor. She ravages my sink cupboard nightly, eating through polystyrene containers to scavenge apple cores, plum stones, rind, peel, whatever of vegetable matter.

She is noisy at night and wakes me up. She left only for a few weeks in summer, and, due to my central heating, I doubt she hibernates.

In the breeding season she raided a little-used drawer, leaving her tell-tale droppings. She tore my grandmother's crocheted table mats to shreds and made holes in my table napkins for nesting material.

However, it is the noise of scampering feet that is my main problem.

Yours faithfully,  
HELEN POND,  
Heronstead, Elm Grove Road,  
Topsfield, Exeter, Devon.  
October 29.

From Mrs Mary E. A. Lewis

Sir, Your leader writer has obviously never seen a dormouse. It is not "grey and boring" but golden and beautiful, with bright black eyes and a bushy tail. It is very small and therefore at risk from predators, but is sometimes even seen in gardens.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY E. A. LEWIS,  
Watermans, Ewehurst Green,  
Robertsbridge, East Sussex.

## A lesser variety?

From Mr J. H. Cook

Sir, Not only Heinz soups are getting smaller (Caroline Minto's letter, November 1). Heinz tins seem to be shrinking across the range. Spaghetti is down from 425g to 400g (nearly 6 per cent) and baked beans similarly. Especially mean, small tins of beans likely to be bought by people on their own are cut by almost 9 per cent from 225g to 205g.

And all on sale, in stores that I have visited, at the same price as before. Some stores even have both sizes on their shelves side by side.

Yours faithfully,  
J. H. COOK,  
28 Hill Burn, Bristol, Avon.  
November 1.

From Mr R. MacAlastair Brown

Sir, I suggest the Countess of Minto should watch out for Nairn's oatcakes. I have just discovered that if she prefers them *without* sugar in the ingredients she will be charged 10p more.

I am always, yours faithfully,  
R. MACALASTAIR BROWN,  
39 Moss Lane, Bramhall,  
Stockport, Cheshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.







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# Will it be chic to buy cheap?

Alan Mitchell wonders whether consumers should welcome the arrival in Britain of warehouse clubs

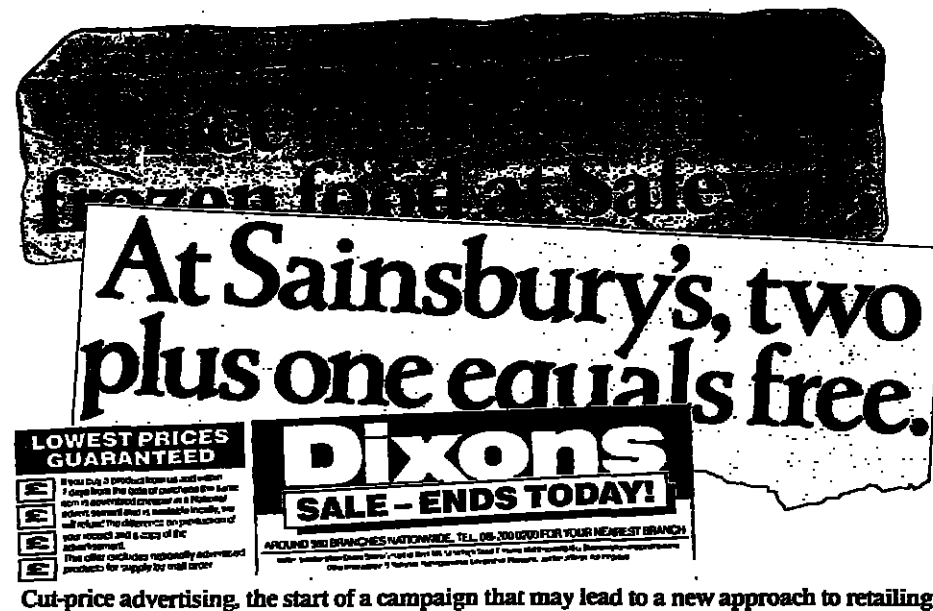
In the old days, if you bought a packet of branded cornflakes or a branded tin of condensed milk, you could be confident that the same product would be available in Store B. Soon this happy simplicity will end.

In the wake of the High Court's decision to give the go-ahead to the American warehouse club Costco's opening on November 30, a new round in the battle of wits between marketers and consumers is starting. As customers demand ever lower prices for branded goods, manufacturers and retailers are making genuine price comparisons impossible. Value camouflage, where different products under the same brand name appear exclusively in different outlets, is on its way.

This change in marketing strategies for manufacturers and retailers alike may be a result of the warehouse club threat. So far, UK-style discount shopping has been almost exclusively undertaken by the poor.

Not any more. Warehouse clubs such as Costco exclude the poor and unemployed from membership. In America, they have made discount shopping an activity for the affluent. The American warehouse club shopper is upper-income, professional-family and aged between 35 and 54.

Costco is trying to repeat that here. Peter Bradley, a spokesman for the three supermarkets whose injunction against Costco's opening failed last week, says Costco is looking for the consumer who can afford impulse buys.



Cut-price advertising, the start of a campaign that may lead to a new approach to retailing

"such as a TV with 20 per cent off". Already, says Austin Bendell, a retail partner at OC & C, strategy consultants, who is advising another unnamed warehouse club on its entry into the UK, getting brands on the cheap has become "pretty chic".

High-street chains are petrified. Several have already reacted. One went so far as to warn its leading suppliers not to sell to Costco.

Dixons — which says it has never issued such warnings — also invests huge sums in discount-style advertising.

Paul Dominy, Sanyo sales director, says: "If Costco made real inroads, Dixons would have to change its whole trading outlook."

Manufacturers are therefore being asked to take sides. Sources close to Costco admit that many, including Sanyo, have refused to supply it. Mr Dominy comments: "Costco's set-up doesn't sit happily with the way in which we want our products marketed." Consumers like to understand what they are buying, he adds. "You need to have the right kind of presentation, display and staff

to sell high-tech products." Yet affluent Americans have opted for lower warehouse prices. Paul Moulton, Costco Europe's managing director, insists that "we have received a high degree of co-operation from most manufacturers". One good reason is that despite selling its goods so cheap, Costco's financial structure, with good cash-flow from high turnover and club membership, still allows it to give manufacturers a higher margin. (In America, Costco's annual profits are almost equivalent to the \$150 million

that consumers and small businesses pay for the privilege of shopping there.) One large consumer durable company's chief claims that "If you supply Costco, you lose 90 per cent of your sales [through a named chain of stores]".

Which is where the new strategy of value camouflage comes in. Increasingly, suppliers of package goods will offer special pack sizes or shrink-wrapped "bulk offers" unique to Costco — and other such operators, making it difficult to make straight price comparisons, as Mr Moulton admits.

The situation is even more complex. "If we sell the same range to Costco," says the consumer durables executive, "all hell would break loose with [certain high street chains]. So we have to find a way of supplying mainstream dealers and warehouse clubs by creating different propositions for each outlet."

New products which need explanation by a trained sales staff will probably go to existing outlets, he says. Other products, or perhaps specially made "downgraded" products, will go to the warehouse clubs. Price comparisons could soon be rendered meaningless.

Consumers may believe that with the advent of the warehouse club they can have their branded cake and eat it. But in the ensuing game of threat and bluff between manufacturers and retailers, a trump card has already appeared.

## A beacon to show the BBC the way

Set up to help spies, the BBC's Monitoring unit has enormous profit potential



Kate Adie: Monitoring tells me what's happening

and Iraqi radio stations. Everyone from businessmen to academics, politicians to financial experts to senior BBC reporters praises BBC Monitoring. Kate Adie, the foreign correspondent, says: "Time and again, information comes back to us that what has happened in the guts of the country is something that has been broadcast, and we don't hear it in our job, which is going out and collecting pictures. To find out what's happening, what the officials are saying,

what the mood of the government is, or the people in power, that is down a phone to me, in a hotel room, where someone says: 'Monitoring tell us the prime minister has actually been deposed.'"

Today, the 582 staff listen to radio and TV broadcasts from 145 countries in 70 languages, and next month, the BBC will open a monitoring unit in Moscow to expand its coverage of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Now the service is selling itself more aggressively it could become enormously profitable and make enough money to pay for much of the World Service annual budget, £166.9 million, to March 1993.

Rosy Wolfe, marketing head, at Monitoring headquarters, Caversham Park, Reading, says: "We need to use our facilities to generate more revenue, rather than rely on government support."

Monitoring's other main product is a daily summary of world broadcasts. SWB covers political events worldwide. The tailored service for specific clients cost between £5,000 and £160,000 a year. SWB costs £460 per year per region.

Monitoring provides a model of how the BBC might operate in future.

NICK ROSEN

### MEDIA SALES & MARKETING

#### BBC News & Current Affairs

##### Head of Weekly Programmes

News and Current Affairs requires a Head of Weekly Programmes. This new bi-media post will be responsible to Managing Director, News and Current Affairs for the output of the output of the Television and Radio Weekly Programmes. These include *Panorama*, *The Money Programme*, *Assignment*, *Analysis*, *File on Four*, *From our Own Correspondent*. This area also produces a substantial range of special programming for television and radio, for example *The Thin Blue Line* for Radio 4.

The programmes are made 'in house', through Independents, and in association with the Regions.

The person appointed will have a proven track record in the editing and production of quality and innovative programmes to the highest editorial standards. Experience and skills in managing staff and budgets are essential and the postholder will have considerable interpersonal skills.

A real knowledge of the law relating to broadcast journalism and of the BBC's own editorial policies and practices is required. A knowledge of the area of independent production would be an advantage.

Salary according to qualifications and experience. (Ref: 13710/T)

##### Editor TV News Programmes

News and Current Affairs have a vacancy for Editor Television News Programmes. The successful candidate will be responsible for the planning and direction of all News and Current Affairs daily television news output. He/she will lead the team of editors responsible for *Business Breakfast*, *Breakfast News* (including *Breakfast With Frost*), *The One O'Clock*, *Six O'Clock* and *Nine O'Clock News*, *Daytime Summary*, *Weekend News* and *Newsnight*. In addition, special news programming is commissioned to cover major events.

As a member of the management team of a bi-media department, the person appointed will report to Head of News Programmes and will contribute to the strategic planning and development of NCA news output on Radio and Television.

This post requires extensive and varied editorial experience in television news and current affairs and several years experience as an output editor in daily journalism.

The person appointed must have sound editorial judgement, an acute political sense, real knowledge of the law relating to broadcast journalism and the BBC's editorial policies and practices. Substantial interpersonal skills will be required and experience in managing staff and budgets is also necessary.

Salary according to qualifications and experience. (Ref: 13711/T)

Both posts will be London based.

Applications would be particularly welcomed from suitably experienced women and members of ethnic minorities who are currently under-represented at this level within the BBC.

For an application form, job description and person specification please telephone or send a postcard (quote appropriate ref.) by November 10th BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W12 7ZJ. Tel: 081-749 7000 Minicom 081-752 5151. Application forms to be returned by November 15th.

#### BBC News & Current Affairs

##### Editors & Assistant Editors

**BBC Radio News & Sport Network - London**  
From 28th March 1994, the BBC Radio News and Sport Network will broadcast 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, bringing live coverage of news and sports issues and events throughout the UK and abroad.

We require Editors and Assistant Editors with the commitment, drive and enthusiasm to help develop the network and to lead teams of journalists providing the core news coverage across specific strands of the day's output. The schedule will include sequences at breakfast, lunchtime and drivetime plus daytime, evening and weekend strands. There will also be a planning team.

Editors will lead a team of journalists and support staff responsible for a key sequence or strand of news programming, each with a specific brief.

Candidates must have:

- extensive experience in both broadcasting and journalism
- and the ability to demonstrate:
- a high level of editorial judgement
- team-leading skills
- managerial and financial expertise
- an interest in a broad agenda of news and sports issues

and, above all, the enthusiasm and originality to make a positive contribution to the development of this new and exciting challenge in 24 hour broadcasting. (Ref: 13712/T)

Application forms must be returned by November 10th.

Assistant Editors will deputise for and support the Editors in all matters including taking responsibility for the output on a day-to-day basis.

Candidates must have:

- considerable experience in both journalism and broadcasting
- developed editorial judgement
- team leading skills
- ability to develop managerial/financial skills
- an interest in a broad agenda of news and sports issues
- originality and enthusiasm to contribute to the development of a new network.

Application forms must be returned by November 15th. (Ref: 13713/T)

Salary according to qualifications and experience.

Applications would be particularly welcome from suitably experienced and qualified women and members of ethnic minorities who are currently under-represented at this level in BBC News and Current Affairs.

Preliminary interviews for Editors should take place from November 17th, with final interviews before the end of November. Interviews for Assistant Editors should take place early in December.

Applications should be accompanied by an outline plan (500 words) proposing programme ideas for the News and Sport Network.

For an application form and further particulars please telephone or send a postcard (quote appropriate ref.) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W12 7ZJ. Tel: 081-749 7000 Minicom 081-752 5151.

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Candidates should have background in consumer journalism, preferably with experience on national publications. They must possess ability to turn jargon into comprehensible English and help manage the team

Send CV to Dan Cruickshank, Perspectives, 26 Cramer Street, London W1M 3HE

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## Display Advertising Sales Executive

Times Newspapers Ltd has a vacancy for a sales executive on the Sunday Times Magazine and Times Saturday Magazine based at News International UK Ltd in London.

News International is the leading newspaper publishing group in the UK, owners of The Times, Sunday Times, Today, Sun and News of the World. Reporting directly to a Group Head, this is a challenging job developing revenue from a portfolio of London agencies as well as one of a number of key client categories.

The successful candidate will receive a good basic salary, commission, BUPA, company pension scheme and ongoing sales training.

Applicants should have a minimum of two years' display advertising sales experience and must be aged 23-30 years and preferably educated to degree standard.

Please send cv and covering letter to Trevor Pryer, Advertisement Manager, Times Newspapers Magazine Division, Times Newspapers Ltd, News International, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XJ. Closing date for application is 5th November, 1993.

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Degree or equivalent \_\_\_\_\_

**Army Officer**

Despite his unsuccessful test-drive, Ashdown may yet end up its relevance to journalism. With Peter Sissons' contract ending, day, at the launch of the Library



# VAT: how to kill a golden goose

The threat of a tax on the printed word has been met with horror in publishing — but would the nation benefit? Robin Hunt suggests that the rewards would be small

There can be little surprise that the impending threat of VAT being imposed on the printed word in the November Budget has been challenged on many fronts in the press. The almost inevitable closures of regional (and, possibly, national titles), the 1,700 magazines forced out of business, the 15 per cent drop in book sales are just some of the arguments used against the tax. Then there is the ensuing redundancies, the fall in copy sales, the lost advertising revenues, and the effects on local community life to be taken into account. The government — and its civil servants — cannot but have heard the cries of displeasure.

Given the depth of opposition, it is worth looking at the Treasury's reasons for considering such a move. It has calculated that taxing the printed word will bring in an extra £1.1bn a year (with newspapers contributing £500 million). At a time when the country's PSBR is £50 billion it is clear that money has to be found somewhere. VAT is an efficient, if somewhat regressive, way of doing this. Particularly when it is justified by Britain's need to harmonise with the rest of our EC partners by 1997.

Well, up to a point, Lord Copper. The analysis carried out by the various publishing organisations suggests a different financial picture. Closures, redundancy payments, and the increased burden on the social security system will mean that the Treasury will be lucky to recoup one-third of its expected targets.

Last week, the accountants Price Waterhouse announced its latest research into the punitive effects of VAT. It concentrated on the regional and local press, rehearsing a sad story: 245 newspapers — or 20 per cent of the industry — to close. A million copy sales per week lost, revenue from advertising down, 60

per cent of all titles to move into loss, 2,500 job losses. All of this at a financial cost to the industry of £109 million.

The Treasury's theoretical yield from the regional press is estimated at £171 million, but Price Waterhouse believes that knock-on effects would reduce this figure to £87 million. The Periodical Publishers Association claims that the £250 million expected from its sector would in fact be £78 million at best; £52 million at worst, and 4,200 people would lose their jobs. "If the Chancellor wants to see economic recovery and improve the government's ratings, imposing VAT is a strange way to go about it," says Neil McRae, the chairman of PPA.

**'VAT is a strange way to economic recovery'**

Imposing VAT at 17.5 per cent would catapult the British press from being — with Denmark and Belgium — the only EC country which zero rates the printed word, to being by far the most heavily taxed. Indeed, at 17.5 per cent, it would be around four times the EC average of 3.9

per cent. "It would be ironic if British newspapers, which have been leading the European newspaper moves towards a harmonisation of zero-rating by 1997, should emerge with a tax four times higher than the European average," says Dugal Nisbet-Smith, director of the Newspaper Society. The experience of the two countries where a VAT-type tax has recently been introduced, Canada and Eire, is also significant: circulations and advertising revenues have plummeted.

There have been calls for a tiered VAT structure, a possibility rumoured in this newspaper last week on fuel. Sir David English, chairman of Associated Newspapers, has considered this, but states a basic economic fact. "If they put VAT on at 17.5 per cent it would make some money, but devastate the industry; if they put it on at 5 per



Undecided: Kenneth Clarke; against (from top) Neil McRae, David English, Dugal Nisbet-Smith



cent the result would be negligible, and we would all have to be a bit paranoid."

Thomson Regional Newspapers suggested in a private briefing to MPs that VAT should be applied only to those papers with a circula-

tion above 250,000. However, this is not the stated position of the Newspaper Society, which represents the interests of all the regional press. "We are opposed to VAT on principle," says Mr Nisbet-Smith. In advertising terms VAT would

lead to a £120 million drop in revenue received from the national press. Overall, the £500 million yield predicted would be more like £153 million — even before falling corporation tax revenues and rising unemployment payments are con-

sidered. Roy Jeans, director of press at Zenith Media, has recently completed a study of national newspaper circulations; over the past five years, he says, "with the exception of *The Mail on Sunday* and *Today*, all other newspapers are down."

It is in this context that *The Times*, along with its stablemate, *The Sun*, has added to the confusion surrounding newspaper pricing, by cutting prices in recent months; a move which many Conservative MPs have mentioned when pressed by their local newspapers about VAT. However, the price cuts on *The Times* have generated a 12 per cent real net gain in newspaper circulation thus far, and an overall gain of 22 per cent. Experience suggests that the consumer's newspaper buying habits take longer than one month to alter, and News International is predicting that the long-term circulation gains on *The Times* will be twice those achieved to date.

Using these figures, News International predicts that a 17.5 per cent tax would reduce the total number of national newspaper sales by more than 6 per cent. Over the longer term this figure would grow to 12 per cent. In a more potent image: three fewer national newspapers would be bought for each pound of tax revenue the Treasury took. Sir David English is predicting disaster. He says the £45 million profit from the *Daily Mail* and *The Mail on Sunday* would be wiped out. He has threatened to stop taking politicians out for lunch in revenge. "Underline that joke," he says, "it's the impact VAT at 17.5 per cent would have. There would be draconian cut-backs on newspapers, expenses, staff, pagination, all cut."

There is also the possibility of several of the weaker national newspapers coming under real threat. Logic would suggest that the government will listen to these arguments. But Sir David English says: "The government is in a strange mood, slightly besieged, it might put VAT on for some strange psychological reason."

"There are so many problems," says Zenith's Roy Jeans. "Do we want to have another 'miners' situation: close the pits and pay £2 billion in redundancies, or keep them open and pay £1 billion? VAT on the press doesn't make sense." Soon we will know if the VAT man cometh.

## NEWSBITES Classier European

● *The European* has chosen the week the Maastricht Treaty comes into force for its relaunch, which is being backed by a £1 million Europe-wide advertising campaign. The paper's 160,000 readers will get fewer pictures, and more analysis and business coverage.

The editor, Herbert Pearson, is hoping to turn the paper's tabloid arts and lifestyle section into a magazine. Meanwhile he plans to kick off with an article on Margaret Thatcher written by another outspoken former woman prime minister, Edith Cresson of France.

## Scoops pooped?

● THE BBC's plans to scoop its rivals could be buried on two fronts. London Radio News, the consortium which won both the London radio frequencies of LBC, is not officially due to begin its rolling news service until autumn next year. But if LBC abandoned at least one of its two licences early, LBN could be on air before the BBC's new 24-hour news and sports service starts next March. The two stations are talking.

The BBC could also be scooped in the Middle East, where Emirates Dubai Television, the state-sponsored broadcaster, plans to launch the world's first 24-hour Arabic satellite television service by December 6 — well ahead of BBC World Service Television's proposed Arabic channel.

● How Jones, 45, managing director of Teledu, *Ti Glas*, an independent television production company, will take over from Geraint Stanley Jones as the new chief executive of S4C, the Welsh channel, next spring.

## Poor cousins

● Depressing news from *The British Film Institute Film and Television Handbook 1994*. Although Britain's cinema admissions are increasing, total production costs for British films dropped by £58 million in 1992 to £185 million. The average Hollywood film budget (\$29 million) is now roughly ten times that of a British film.

## Shea bites back

● MICHAEL Shea's latest book, *Personal Impact* offers advice on how to deal with media figures. The Queen's former press secretary describes Jeremy Paxman, for example, as "a man who appears to have lost his modesty at a distinctly early age, as befits someone who graduated via Esther Rantzen's *That's Life* programme."

ALEXANDRA FREAN  
Media Correspondent

# Television's super-highway could end in a pile-up

"TIME to join the super-highway" trumpeted *The Sunday Times* in its Business Comment column ten days ago. It went on, excited by the proposed merger of Bell Atlantic and TCI, to ask "whether Britain, once the undisputed leader in global communications, will be able to take its place in the fast lane of the information super-highway, or be confined to a slip road."

It is time to call a halt to this sort of hype and jingoism, and to ask ourselves coolly how British television companies should position themselves in the fast-changing — but uncertain — global broadcasting

and telecommunications market of the 1990s.

The basic functions in television range from the creation and production of programmes to the broadcasting of them. At the interface is distribution.

Creators and producers must constantly innovate to entertain or inform — without forgetting that the television services of tomorrow must aspire not only to high quality but to low cost. The ITV Association's own consultants have estimated that within ten years the average cost per hour of UK television programmes will have to fall to

## Easing broadcasting ownership rules will not bring global rewards, says Louis Sherwood, HTV chairman

about half what it is today, because the growth in revenues available (whether from advertising, subscription, pay-per-view or licence fees) will not match the likely growth in the screen hours to be filled.

BROADCASTERS, by contrast, will be concentrating on securing transmission rights and on the ability to exploit the opportunities offered by a rapidly evolving technology. This is where major capital

resources and global muscle play an important part.

Meanwhile, creation and production will remain a diverse industry, with a multiplicity of units and with a low threshold of entry for those with sufficient talent and determination. And it is the creation and production of television programmes and services, both for domestic consumption and for export, which the government should be seeking to support — not

the global broadcasting ambitions of would-be Murdoch.

Today, the heritage secretary, Peter Brooke, and the President of the Board of Trade, Michael Heseltine, are holding a meeting with industry leaders because they "are anxious that the opportunities for exporting programmes and other services should not be missed."

But despite the excellent export record of medium-sized ITV companies such as HTV,

Anglia and Scottish, we are the very companies who are apparently frustrating the legitimate global ambitions of Carlton, Granada, and Central, and whose absorption is allegedly essential for the health of British television.

IN A SPEECH to the Royal Television Society at Cambridge, Central's Leslie Hill called for the British broadcasting ownership rules to be relaxed "because without relaxation the prospect for the 1990s will be greater domination of international television by American, European and Japanese companies."

But the ITV ownership rules have nothing to do with the ability of the ITV majors to compete on the global broadcasting stage. And such ambition could conflict with their primary obligations as regional ITV licensees — they should be aware that plunging down that global "super-highway" of rapidly converging technologies could end in an expensive pile-up.

We at HTV intend to stick to our obligations to our regional viewers and to our shareholders by continuing to make good value television programmes, both for domestic consumption and for export.

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## NEWS

## Elected assembly plan for Ulster

A new elected assembly for Northern Ireland is being planned by ministers as the core of a package of measures designed to halt the violence in the province.

Members would be chosen by a form of proportional representation and the minority Catholic community would be guaranteed a voice. The body would have devolved power over areas such as health, education and housing. It would be part of a wider deal with concessions by Dublin. **Page 1**

## Bulger trial boys blame each other

The 11-year-old boys accused of abducting and murdering James Bulger blamed each other for killing him when questioned by police. Preston Crown Court was told. Richard Henriques QC, for the prosecution, said the boys' confessions showed they had a fluent capacity to tell lies. **Pages 1, 3**

## Tax unease

Increasing Conservative concern over the £10.5 billion in tax increases due to come into effect in April will prompt a last-ditch warning from senior backbenchers to Kenneth Clarke today to avoid substantial rises in the Budget. **Page 1**

## Serb-Croat talks

Officials from Croatia and the Serb-held Krajina enclave have been holding secret peace talks in Norway this week. Negotiations on a ceasefire in the disputed enclave began on Monday but broke off yesterday without agreement. **Pages 1, 13**

## Ulster mourns

Thousands of Protestants and Catholics stood together in silence with their heads bowed as hearse carrying victims of the gun attack in Greyhound, Co Londonderry, wound slowly through their rural community. **Page 2**

## Death row hope

Hundreds of men on death row in the Caribbean and other Commonwealth countries are expected to have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment after a landmark ruling by the Privy Council. **Page 5**

## Anti-hunt victory

Anti-blood sports activists won a round in their legal battle with the National Trust to get the charity to ban hunting on its land. A High Court judge upheld a complaint that a resolution calling for a new look at hunting had been put confusingly. **Page 3**

## Flower power city uproots the weed

San Francisco, famed since the 1960s for its tolerant attitudes, has run out of patience with smokers. Smoking is to be banned in the city's 4,000 restaurants by 1995 and in the workplace from December 1. The law was passed in the birthplace of hippies, flower power, mind alteration by LSD and progressive attitudes to homosexuality. **Page 13**

## Tougher jails

Prison governors will be given tougher powers to control and discipline unruly inmates under proposals to be unveiled by the home secretary today. **Page 10**

## Bitter contest

Bitterly contested proposals to allow women priests to be ordained in the Church of England reached the House of Lords yesterday. If, as now seems certain, the reforms complete all their legislative stages, the first women should be ordained next April. **Page 11**

## Olivetti probe

Carlo De Benedetti, the swash-buckling chairman of the Olivetti computer multinational, was questioned at the Regina Coeli prison in Rome about an alleged corruption charge after surrendering to police. **Page 13**

## House deadline

House sellers must find a buyer within a month or risk their property being stuck on the market until spring. **Page 7**

## Nafta rescue

To ward off defeat for the North American Free Trade Agreement, President Clinton held a White House rally at which he was flanked by past dignitaries such as Jimmy Carter and Henry Kissinger. **Page 14**

## Yeltsin warning

President Yeltsin of Russia said he would guarantee the separation of emment powers and warned ministers not to overstep legal limits. **Page 15**



A sports cup made from tin cans by two wartime Colditz escapees was presented to the Imperial War Museum yesterday. **Page 5**

## BUSINESS

Bank crime: The Bank of England has investigated 130 cases of possible criminality in the banking system since it set up a new investigative unit a year ago. **Page 25**

Dealer expelled: An arbitrage trader who exceeded his trading limit by \$400 million has been expelled by the Securities and Futures Authority, signalling a clampdown on City dealing rooms. The action is the first of its kind since the SFA was formed in 1991. **Page 25**

Market: The FT-SE 100 index fell 0.3 to 3164.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 80.9 after a slight rise from \$1.4782 to \$1.4812 and from DM2.5073 to DM2.5099. **Page 28**

## SPORT

Football: Manchester United must defeat Galatasaray in Istanbul today if they are to reach the Champions League stage of the European Cup, which could earn them up to £6 million. "I will be glad to get out of here," Alex Ferguson, their manager, said, "but the excitement of representing English football, the acid test that is to come, is really exciting." **Page 48**

Cricket: Graham Gooch has called for the county championship to be divided into two divisions to encourage the domestic game to become more competitive. He believes English cricket is being slowly strangled by the counties' self-interest. **Page 48**

## FEATURES

Wind of change: "In Kenneth Grahame's world, everyone felt comfortable laughing at Toad's boasting..." Libby Purves on a different age. **Page 16**

Electronic euphoria: "I had never owned a typewriter which I did not end up loathing. But the word processor was a different thing altogether." Janet Daley explains why women love computers. **Page 17**

## ARTS

Rice's new horizon: Fifteen years after splitting from Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyricist Tim Rice is enjoying his greatest success since *Evita*: he has an Oscar, a No 1 hit in America, and a lucrative contract with Disney studio. **Page 33**

London's movies: From the big Hollywood releases to Far East art-house fare: Geoff Brown offers a guide to the London Film Festival, which starts tomorrow. **Page 35**

Much prized: Since winning the Pulitzer Prize for fiction this summer, Robert Olen Butler has become literature's best-known "unknown" writer. His prize-winning collection of short stories is now out in Britain. **Page 35**

## THE TIMES TOMORROW

## Seeking winter wonderlands

Are Caribbean cruises only for the old and wealthy? Travel News reports on the bargains to be had for young families seeking the sun in the depth of winter.

## Nothing to laugh about

Don't go to the new Mike Leigh film expecting to laugh. "Naked" will wipe away anyone's smile," says Geoff Brown, reviewing a brilliant but harrowing portrait of London's lost souls.

## The bumpy road to Utopia

Peter Ackroyd reviews a new history of Utopian thinkers and asks: Do we need their visions?



The Samaritans, including founder Dr Chad Varah, say that suicides of young men have risen in an age where gender roles are questioned. **Page 8**

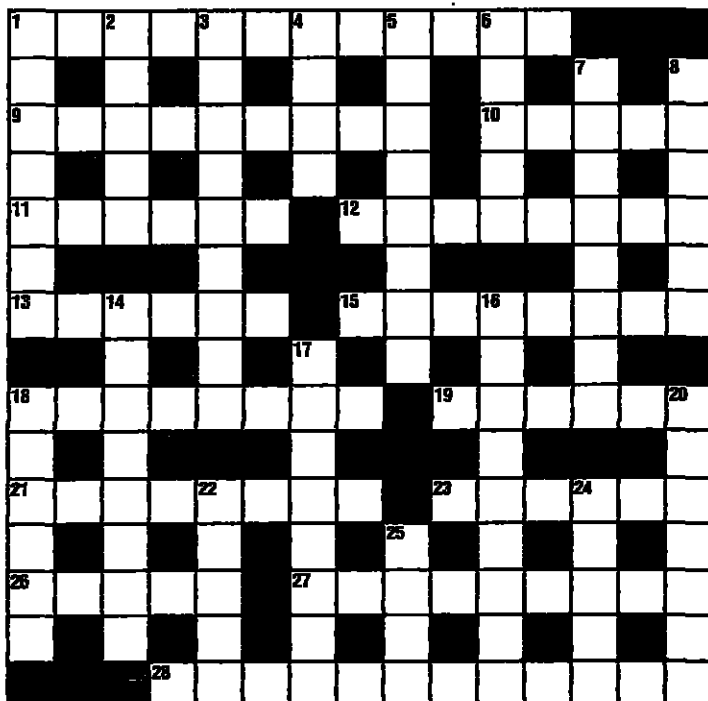


Ros Hepplewhite, chief executive of the Child Support Agency, has defended it against public criticism over maintenance bills. **Page 7**



Lieutenant Nicholas Tod, who humiliated army recruits with bizarre sex acts, was jailed for 15 months and dismissed from the service. **Page 5**

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,378



## ACROSS

- The trial of a royal household Roman poet (5-7).
- Listens in sure enough for practice (9).
- Gas ring location (5).
- A flighty creature's infantile complaint (6).
- Having done badly, the egghead is sweet (8).
- Fruit will be provided when mothers take over (6).
- The fellow's second-rate -- of less significance (8).
- Threatening many, or it may appear so (8).
- The place of the obsolescent radio enthusiast (6).
- Give voice about the whip cutting (8).

## Solution to Puzzle No 19,377

VICTORIA WHIPPUR  
N R I G I O R  
A B I A A N T I D O T E  
A B I O N C U B E L C  
C N O S I O  
M Y N A R S T O N E G H A T  
I T W T G A O  
L I M E T I G H T S T E E R  
K O L E I M C R A C K  
O I C R E W H  
U L T I M A T A S H A M A N  
N O R I I U I  
D A B N E D N E S T L I N G

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 23 per cent of the competitors at the 1993 Birmingham regional final of The Times Knockout Crossword Championship.

## TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701	York, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Dorset & Dorset	703	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	704
Devon & Cornwall	705	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	706
Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	707	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	708
Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	709	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	710
Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	711	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	712
Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	713	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	714
Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	715	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	716
Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	717	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	718
Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	719	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	720
Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	721	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	722
Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	723	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	724
Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	725	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	726
Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	727	Wiltshire, Wiltshire & Wiltshire	728

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic and roadworks	731
C. London (within M1 & S. Circs.)	732
M-ways/roads M1-M25	733
M-ways/roads M25-M4	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Angles	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

## WEATHER

Most places will start dull as patchy rain moves slowly north. Much of the morning will be murky and misty, but brighter and milder weather will edge northwards into southern parts during the day. There will still be a lot of cloud and a few showers. Most of the east and north will remain chilly in the fresh east or south-easterly wind. Outlook: a few patches of rain, but mostly dry and milder with a little sunshine. Increasing risk of fog.

## ABROAD

Algeria	20 68	Madrid	13 35	C	F
Algeria	20 68	Madrid	13 35	C	F
Algeria	20 68	Madrid	13 35	C	F
Algeria	20 68	Madrid	13 35	C	F
Algeria	20 68	Madrid	13 35	C	F
Algeria	20 68	Madrid	13 35	C	F
Algeria	20 68	Madrid	13 35	C	F
Algeria	20 68	Madrid	13 35	C	F
Algeria	20 68	Madrid	13 35	C	F
Algeria	20 68	Madrid	13 35	C	F

## AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Aberdeen	0.1	0.1	4	0
London	0.1	0.1	4	0
London	0.1	0.1	4	0
London	0.1	0.1	4	0
London	0.1	0.1	4	0
London	0.1	0.1	4	0
London	0.1	0.1	4	0
London	0.1	0.1	4	0
London	0.1	0.1	4	0
London	0.1	0.1	4	0

## LIGHTING-UP TIMES

Location	Sun	Rise	Set
London	5.00 pm	6.28 am	6.28 am
Edinburgh	5.00 pm	6.28 am	6.28 am
Manchester	5.00 pm	6.28 am	6.28 am
Cardiff	5.00 pm	6.28 am	6.28 am
Belfast	5.00 pm	6.28 am	6.28 am
Birmingham	5.00 pm	6.28 am	6.28 am
Blackpool	5.00 pm	6.28 am	6.28 am
Bristol	5.00 pm	6.28 am	6.28 am
Cardiff	5.00 pm	6.28 am	6.28 am
Cardiff	5.00 pm	6.28 am	6.28 am

## YESTERDAY

Location	C	F	Humidity
Belfast	7	45	Guernsey 9 48
Birmingham	7	45	Jersey 8 46
Blackpool	7	45	London 10 50
Bristol	7	45	London 7 45
Cardiff	7	45	Manchester 6 43
Edinburgh	8	46	Newcastle 8 46
Glasgow	8	46	Ryde 7 45

## HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	13.34	7.0	13.34	7.0
Aberdeen	13.34	7.0	13.34	7.0
London Bridge	13.34	7.0	13.34	7.0
Aberdeen	13.34	7.0	13.34	7.0
London Bridge	13.34	7.0	13.34	7.0
Aberdeen	13.34	7.0	13.34	7.0
London Bridge	13.34	7.0	13.34	7.0
Aberdeen	13.34	7.0	13.34	7.0
London Bridge	13.34	7.0	13.34	7.0

## NOON TODAY

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	12.11	11.11	11.11
London	12.11	11.11	11.11
London	12.11	11.11	11.11
London	12.11	11.11	11.11
London	12.11	11.11	11.11
London	12.11	11.11	11.11
London	12.11	11.11	11.11
London	12.11	11.11	11.11
London	12.11	11.11	11.11
London	12.11	11.11	11.11

Despite his unsuccessful test-drive, Ashdown may yet end up... With Peter Sissons' contract ended, day, at the launch of the Library...





# ARTS 33-35

Life after Lloyd Webber: Tim Rice is back on song



# TIDY BRITAIN 40-42

A blooming success across the land



# SPORT 43-48

All Blacks maintain unbeaten record

HELPING HAND FOR TEMPS

Secretarial page 39

# THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3 1993

## Bank sounds hopeful note on inflation

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England yesterday gave a reasonably optimistic view on inflation, predicting that the government's target for underlying inflation should not, on balance, be breached over the next two years even though inflation will rise further over the next few months.

In its quarterly *Inflation Report*, the Bank said that it expected the headline retail price index and the underlying rate of inflation — which excludes mortgage interest payments and is called RPIX — to go on rising until mid-1994 (partly because of higher indirect taxes announced in March) but that they will then start to fall again.

The overall attitude to inflation so far appears to be "so

□ Inflation will rise until the middle of next year, partly because of Budget tax rises, and then start to fall, says the Bank of England. It concludes: so far, so good

far, so good". There was little in this report to suggest mounting concern about price pressures and it was clear that the Bank would reconsider its view that interest rates are at the right level if the Chancellor announces a fiscal tightening in the Budget. It is also clear that any temporary breach of the target for underlying inflation (a slight possibility, according to the Bank), because of tax increases, would not prompt interest rate rises.

The Bank said that its preferred measure of core inflation, which excludes local authority and indirect taxes and which the Bank yesterday

named RPIY, should start falling in early 1994 and could reach a level close to the middle of the government's 1-4 per cent target range in 1995.

Indeed, the main uncertainties surrounding the outlook for inflation outlined by the Bank appear to suggest that inflation, if anything, could be lower than the Bank currently sees. One reason is that large interest rate cuts abroad could push sterling higher, which would dampen down inflation. The other is that Britain is expected to have a big output gap (that the economy is working below its full capacity), only moderate growth in demand and slow growth in borrowing from banks and building societies. All these, according to the report, "point to the possibility of bringing inflation down further at the same time as output growth picks up".

The main risk is that wage bargainers react to the temporary rise in inflation measures over the next few months by asking for larger increases. By emphasising RPIY, the measure likely to start falling after its temporary blip sooner than other measures, the Bank hopes inflationary expectations will not take hold to the same degree.

The Bank believes that narrow money, M0, mainly notes and coin, up 5.4 per cent in the year to October — well above the 4 per cent upper limit of the government's monitoring range — is difficult to interpret. Meanwhile, Rupert Pennington-Rea, deputy governor of the Bank, told the House of Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee yesterday that making the Bank of England independent would "no doubt, over time, improve the inflationary performance in this country".

□ Touche Ross said there were 240 receiverships and administration appointments in October, above the figure of 184 in September but still well below the 416 registered in October last year.

Pennington, page 27

## Banking crime under scrutiny

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England has investigated 130 cases of possible criminality in the banking system since it set up a special investigation unit a year ago. The unit resulted from criticism of the Bank's role as supervisor of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

About 25 cases are on the Bank's active list and an additional 35 are being monitored. Brian Quinn, a Bank executive director with responsibility for banking supervision, told the parliamentary Treasury select committee that the Bank was working hard to "detect growing signs of criminality" after recent cases.

He said the investigation unit, employing mostly accountants "skilled in the detection of criminality", was "hard at work on something like 130 cases referred to them". The 130 cases are in addition to 40 cases of possible illegal deposits the Bank is looking at. Mr Quinn said the Bank believed fraud was still predominantly "through and on banks", rather than perpetrated by them.

The Bank is investigating possible cases of money laun-

dering, fraud and improper connections between directors and borrowers, and matters involving bank ownership.

Where the Bank or its investigating agencies find evidence of fraud, they have passed it on to prosecutors. A spokeswoman for the Bank said there was "contact with the relevant authorities where appropriate", but was unable to say how many cases had been passed to the trade department, the Serious Fraud Office or the police.

Mr Quinn rejected suggestions that the Bank was hampering its supervisory role by closeness to the "old boy network". Asked if he thought the Bank should regulate building societies, Mr Quinn said there were two main differences between banks and building societies: the limited amount of funds a building society could raise on wholesale money markets and the limit on how much they could lend unsecured on mortgages. If this changed, he said, building societies would have to be supervised by the Bank of England.



Tesco truck driver Jean Klenk celebrates her success in the Winning Women Award

## Driving ambition wins through in food retailing

PROOF that women have firmly established themselves in traditionally male-dominated worlds came from Jean Klenk, a heavy goods vehicle driver for Tesco, who was one of 20 winners in the *Checklist/Premier* Beverages Winning Women Awards (Susan Gilchrist writes).

Now in their third year, the awards seek to reward high-

achieving women for their contribution to the food retailing industry.

Among this year's Top 20, selected from more than a hundred applications, are employees from J.Sainsbury, Marks and Spencer, Kwik Save and Iceland.

Ms Klenk says her main career achievement is succeeding in a male vocation.

## Watchdog expels arbitrage trader

BY JON ASHWORTH

AN ARBITRAGE trader who exceeded his trading limit by \$400 million has been expelled by the Securities and Futures Authority, in what may herald a fresh clampdown on City dealing rooms.

Kevin Reed Morgan, has been expelled from the SFA register — effectively barring him from trading in the City again. The action is believed to be the first involving an arbitrageur since the SFA was formed in 1991.

In July 1991, Mr Morgan was asked to resign from an SFA member firm after just ten days, having "heavily" exceeded his position on three occasions in that short period. Matters came to a head in March 1993, when Mr Morgan, who had since joined another firm, heavily exceeded his limit while trading US government bonds. At the time, he was employed as a trader on the proprietary US arbitrage book.

In a flurry of late trading, Mr Morgan built up an open interest position of \$400 million, against an agreed trading limit of \$5 million. He did not record the majority of the transactions on the firm's systems, and did not report the positions to his manager until the next day. The firm was obliged to liquidate his position at a loss of £1.7 million. Mr Morgan was dismissed.

The names of the firms involved have not been disclosed. For some years, Mr Morgan had run a speculative personal account at another broker, incurring large losses during 1990. He attempted to pay off some of the debt, but the cheques bounced and a bankruptcy petition was served on him in November 1992. Mr Morgan did not disclose this to his new employer, as he was obliged to under SFA rules. He was adjudged bankrupt in April 1993, owing in excess of £300,000.

BUSINESS EDITOR  
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

CROSSROADS



Swedish pride has forced Volvo to postpone shareholder approval of a merger with Renault  
Pennington, page 27

BRIDGE

MEPC, Britain's second-largest property group, is doubling its American holdings, with two malls  
Page 27, Tempos 29

TWO WAY



Germany and France began talks over economic integration, despite the ERM breakdown  
Page 26

SINGLE TRACK

Marks and Spencer directors have decided not to get involved in operating the National Lottery  
Pennington, 27

## More job losses likely after pit review

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Coal launched a review of Calverton Colliery, in Nottinghamshire, warning miners nationwide that coal consumption by electricity generating companies in England and Wales was running seven million tonnes below corporation forecasts.

The Calverton review is likely to preface closure of the colliery and loss of all 640 miners' jobs there. British Coal says the pit has lost £6.3 million this year.

Notification of the review was given as British Coal began consultations with union representatives on the financial performance of collieries

throughout Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire, and their prospects. Miners in these areas are largely represented by the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers, which helped the government to break the 1984-5 coal strike.

British Coal has warned that the prospects of each of its remaining 30 deep mines are being reviewed, because its capacity to produce coal far exceeds demand. Yesterday, the corporation said that "developments in the energy market since the publication of the government's Coal Review in March have virtually eliminated the potential for additional sales during the current financial year". Coal consumption at power stations run by

National Power and PowerGen, the two biggest generators, had fallen by 20 per cent since last year. The corporation originally predicted that the two generators, who take 80 per cent of its output, would burn 64 million tonnes of coal this year. Now it says the total is likely to be just 57 million tonnes.

British Coal says the shrinkage of coal's market has been accelerated by a 12 per cent rise in output from the state-owned nuclear industry, by imports from France and by the introduction of gas-fired plants, which have been completed earlier, and have proved more efficient, than expected.

The generators have a 30 million-tonne stockpile of coal, which they are

anxious to reduce, while another 15.5 million tonnes are piled at pitheads.

The corporation's sales to the generators will fall from 40 million tonnes this year to 30 million tonnes in the year beginning next April. With output from opencast workings roughly equal to non-generators' consumption, it seems increasingly clear that British Coal will be able to meet its contracts from 15 or so pits, each producing two million tonnes a year.

□ Dealing in shares in Coal Investments, the former Geovon tin mining group now headed by Malcolm Edwards, the former British Coal commercial director, is likely to be resumed tomorrow. The shares have been suspended for 18 months.

STOCK MARKET		THE POUND		GOLD	
FT-SE 100 3164.1 -0.3	DOW JONES 3679.20 -13.41	Dm 2.5099 +0.0026	US \$ 1.4812 +0.0030	\$390.95 per oz.	BRENT CRUDE \$15.95 per barrel (Dec)
Midday trading figure				6.00pm	

LONDON CLOSING PRICES

MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 28, SHARE PRICES PAGE 31

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People to People Technology

# Surveyors see bleak prospects for 1994

By CARL MORTSHED  
AND SARA MCCONNELL

SURVEYORS in the construction industry fear a continuing recession next year, with a 5 per cent drop in the total workload of quantity surveyors over the last quarter and cutbacks in government spending on construction expected in the Budget at the end of the month.

Meanwhile, the Halifax building society's monthly survey of the housing market gives a further indication of a fragile recovery, with prices no longer falling in most areas but remaining static.

Figures from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors show a

continuing decline in activity by quantity surveyors after last year's 12 per cent fall in workload. Lack of commercial and industrial development has hit the profession at the same time as a 9 per cent drop in level of public-sector work planned for the next six months.

Of the 200 firms surveyed in the RICS report, 12 per cent expected to shed staff over the next three months while 19 per cent anticipated cutbacks next year.

Christopher Vickers, construction spokesman for the RICS, said that the effects of public-sector cutbacks on capital spending would be dire for the construction industry.

Mr Vickers urged the government to cut interest rates and reduce value-

added tax on home improvements as well as repair and maintenance. "The mood among members is grim. The feeling at the beginning of the year was of recession coming to an end. Now few practices expect to see a significant upturn even in 1994," he said.

The Halifax said that annual house price inflation rose for the second month in succession last month. Average house prices are now 1.5 per cent above their level in October 1992.

In September, they rose by 1 per cent. The price of new houses fell slightly by 0.5 per cent, but this still meant an improvement in the annual rate of house price inflation to minus 0.4 per cent in October compared with 1.4 per cent in September. The

average price of a new house is now £67,687. The average price paid by a first-time buyer in October was £45,959.

This is a fall of 0.8 per cent, reversing a small rise in September. But first time buyer prices have held up better than others, with prices 2.2 per cent up on a year ago.

The Halifax predicts that prices will end the year about 2 per cent higher than at the end of 1992. It said "a more sustained recovery is probable for 1994, with house prices likely to rise by 5 per cent or so over the course of the year".

It gave a warning that the housing market remained vulnerable to any measures that might damage the confidence of potential house buyers.

Like other lenders, the Halifax is concerned that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, may be tempted to cut tax relief on mortgage interest or even abolish it altogether. Tax relief is available on the first £30,000 of a loan, but only at the basic rate. From next April, relief will be restricted to the lower tax rate of 20 per cent.

□ The RICS is conducting an investigation into valuations of Queens Moat Houses hotels by two surveying firms, Weatherall Green and Smith and Jones Lang Wootton after concern over the wide discrepancy between Weatherall's £2 billion valuation in 1991 and Jones Lang Wootton's £861 million valuation a year later.

## Beazer buys builder in Scotland

Beazer Homes has paid £28.2 million for the housebuilding division of the privately-owned Walker Group, based at Livingston, West Lothian. It owns 1,300 plots at an average value of £11,000 and long-term holdings of 75 acres.

Walker completed about 140 homes in the latest financial year, and plans to expand production in western Scotland to 500 units.

## Top awards

O'Sullivan & Graham, the international consulting engineer, has won the British Consultancy Bureau's consultancy firm of the year award for reorganising Zimbabwe's Dairy Marketing Board's transport fleet. Richard Birch, a project director for Mott MacDonald, was named as British consultant of the year for his work on improving the water system of Karachi. Arup Economics and Planning is the small consultancy firm of the year for work to extend the TGV rail route from Paris southwards to Marseille. The awards are sponsored by *The Times*.

## B Elliott cash

B Elliott, the engineering group, announced a £5.4 million rights issue to fund the acquisition of Deeming Taylor, a manufacturer of dies and tooling products, and the development of two subsidiaries. The group returned to the black in the six months to October 1, 1993, with £1.26 million pre-tax profit (£760,000 loss). Earnings per share were 3.42p (57.44p loss). There is no dividend. (nil).

## Timothy Daily

Timothy Daily has never worked as an employee of Lehman Brothers, as incorrectly reported on November 1. We apologise for the error and any misunderstanding that it may have caused.



Jean-René Fourtou, centre, Igor Landau, Rhône-Poulenc group president, left, and Jean-Pierre Tirouffet, finance director

## French firm plays down debut profits

THE chairman of Rhône-Poulenc, the first industrial group to be sold in France's privatisation programme, sought yesterday to dampen expectations of any rapid performance surge arising from withdrawal of state involvement (see *Times* 29 October).

Jean-René Fourtou gave a warning in London that the chemicals and pharmaceutical sectors in which Rhône-Poulenc operates, remain difficult. And he signalled concern that the heady level of the Paris stock market would create unrealistic expectations. According to leaks from Paris, profits at Rhône-Poulenc are set to fall 30 per cent this year. Mr Fourtou said restructuring would remain the prime route to profit enhancement.

# France and Germany begin talks over monetary union

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE and Germany yesterday began detailed talks on economic integration preparatory to the currency union enshrined in the Maastricht Treaty.

A meeting of French and German finance ministers and central bankers in Berlin underlined the determination of the European Community's founder members to press ahead despite the breakdown of the European exchange-rate mechanism, divergence of EC economies and popular doubts over the European project.

The bi-lateral talks contrast sharply with Britain's reluctance to resume the path towards monetary union.

They also coincided with the publication yesterday of a poll for Germany's interior minis-

While Britain remains sceptical about monetary union within the European Community, France and Germany held bilateral talks to lay firm plans for the convergence of their economies

try which showed fewer than 18 per cent of Germans think EC membership is advantageous to their country.

The meeting, under the auspices of the Franco-German Economic Council, brought Edmond Alphandery, French economy minister, and Nicolas Sarkozy, budget minister, and Theo Waigel and Guenther Rexrodt, their German counterparts, together to look at the problems France and Germany will face if they are to meet the three central Maastricht convergence criteria.

Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president, and Jean-Claude Trichet, Bank of France governor, were there also. After the meeting, Herr

Tietmeyer said there was still no set timetable for a return to narrower bands in the ERM. "We jointly determined that the time is not appropriate," he said.

M Sarkozy said France expected to cut its budget deficit to about 2 per cent of gross domestic product by 1997, and it should meet the criteria set down in the Maastricht treaty on monetary union a year ago.

He said the French government had two scenarios for growth in 1994. Under the first, the French economy would grow 2.8 per cent and under the second, 3.5 per cent. His optimism contrasts sharply with the recent divergence of budget deficits from the

Maastricht goal of limiting national shortfalls to 3 per cent of GDP.

Recession, accompanied by rising unemployment and higher social spending has swollen deficits across Europe. Although France is expected to cut its deficit from Fr317 billion to Fr300 billion next year, the deficit will still account for 5.1 per cent of GDP.

Germany, meantime, is struggling to finance the huge costs of integration, and fund the transfer of DM150 billion a year for infrastructure deficiencies in the eastern part of its enlarged territory.

Inflation, targets present fewer problems. Unification pushed up inflation in Ger-

many, but high interest rates have just delivered an inflation rate of 3.9 per cent in October, the first fall below 4 per cent this year.

With further falls expected in 1994, and French inflation running at 2.3 per cent in September, the Maastricht criteria of low and steady inflation appears achievable.

On interest rates, the third target established by Maastricht, France has continued to let Germany take the lead.

But both German and French economies are now suffering severely from recession. West German industrial production fell a further 2 per cent in September, according to provisional, seasonally-adjusted figures. That brings the year on year fall to 7.7 per cent. Manufactured production fell 2.5 per cent in September alone, the economic ministry said.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Johnson Fry cancels Lloyd's recovery fund

JOHNSON Fry's Corporate Insurance Recovery Trust, a "fund of funds" investing in the new Lloyd's corporate vehicles, has been cancelled owing to lack of demand. The trust raised £8 million; the minimum subscription level was £15 million. Applicants' cheques will be returned. Johnson Fry will pick up the costs.

Charles Fry, chief executive, said: "To participate in the placing process for the underlying Lloyd's investment companies, the trust had to raise its money extremely quickly. Whilst we received applications from over 1,200 individual investors, we were unable to raise enough money in the very limited time available. With a longer subscription period, he said, the target would have been reached."

## Tunstall to create jobs

TUNSTALL, the quoted electronics group, plans to create more than 400 jobs by expanding its contract design and manufacturing business. The group is setting up a subsidiary called Mion Electronics, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, to cope with increasing domestic and overseas demand. "Within two years, it is anticipated that over 400 jobs will be created," Tunstall said. It makes and services security and emergency communications equipment. Tunstall estimates that profits will have jumped 21 per cent, to £6.4 million, in the 12 months to September 30. The group proposes to increase its final dividend from 3.75p to 4.5p. Tunstall shares rose 20p to 560p.

## Ashtead aims for growth

A RIGHTS issue of £20.4 million on a one-for-three basis by Ashtead Group, the plant hire company, will fund an acquisition programme that the group believes could triple its market share from the current level of 7 per cent by the time the construction industry recovers from recession. Ashtead said that turnover for the first five months of the financial year was running 24 per cent ahead of the comparable period. It believes prices are now near the bottom and that the group can strengthen its position in Britain and America. The rights issue is set at 280p a share. General approval in the market moved the existing shares forward 1p to 324p. *Tempus*, page 29

## Filofax expands

FILOFAX is expanding its presence in Europe through the acquisition of Systemplan, which dominates the retail supply of personal organisers in Denmark. Filofax is paying 9.1 million Danish kroner (£910,000) in cash for Systemplan, which has sales of about Dkr11.0 million and assets of Dkr3.8 million. Robin Field, Filofax's chief executive, says the deal will enhance earnings. He is confident economies of scale will improve Systemplan's margins, although he does not expect a large increase in sales. Until yesterday, Denmark was the only main European country in which Filofax was not represented.

## Casket doubles exports

CASKET, the company behind British Eagle and Lotus Sport bicycles, says nearly two-thirds of its cycles are manufactured in Britain, compared with a third a year ago, and exports have doubled. The company, which also has a clothing division, reported an increase in pre-tax profits to £2.13 million from £1.8 million on sales up to £51.8 million from £50.1 million. Earnings are 1.89p (1.56p) a share, and the interim dividend is 0.4p (0.3p). While the leisure division increased profits to £2.6 million from £2.4 million, profits from clothing fell to £273,000 from £336,000. The company is cautious about the short-term outlook for this division.

## Abacus debut price set

SHARES in Abacus, the electronic components distributor, will be priced at 140p to raise £15 million on flotation, valuing the company at £40.6 million. Abacus hopes to establish a presence in northern Europe via a joint venture or acquisition. Existing shareholders will get £11.9 million, with the balance for development. In the 12 months to end-September Abacus made £2.9 million pre-tax (£1.7 million).



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## Moves to change BSI constitution defended

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

MOVES to alter the constitution of the British Standards Institution at tomorrow's annual meeting, which would give the board more power, have been defended by leading directors.

Vivian Thomas, the non-executive chairman, and Ram Mylvaganam, the marketing director, rejected criticism that additional powers would lead to a diminution of members' influence by making the institution more like a commercial company.

Mr Thomas said: "Whether it is BSI or ICI, you have got to

be good on productivity, cost efficiency and getting rid of bureaucracy." Michael Sanderson, the former chief executive of the institution, left in June after a boardroom clash.

The meeting tomorrow will be asked to approve proposals giving the board the power to make a short-term appointment if a management vacancy occurs such as last June, although the chairman emphasised that the institution hoped to have a new chief executive installed in the first quarter of 1994.

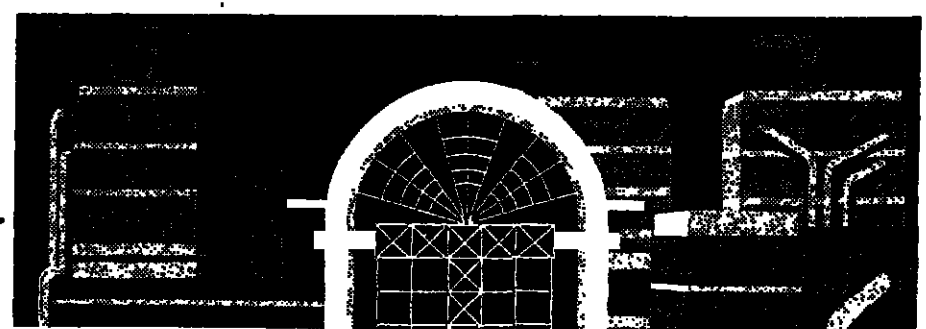
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□ Mental gymnastics will be needed to explain inflation □ All bets are off at Marks and Spencer □ Volvo should not get married

## Return of that dreaded blip

□ HOW fortunate that no-one is much concerned with inflation these days, for all the Chancellor's ritual incantations and the Bank of England's enthusiastic focus on the area that best suits its ambition to control short-term interest rates. If the 4 per cent target ceiling were sacrosanct and if there really was a serious aim to cut a 2½ per cent ceiling for the inflation rate by the next election, Kenneth Clarke should be thinking of putting interest rates up. He would certainly not contemplate a rate cut with the Budget, even if that cuts spending power.

Back in the real world, the thinking is rather different. The Bank is busy establishing alibis in case one or more measures of inflation temporarily break above 4 per cent over the next twelve months. That is reckoned fair game because the authorities have come to the conclusion, which may seem blindingly obvious, that there is no serious inflationary pressure in an economy with depressed output, falling pay settlements and nearly 3 million unemployed. The subdued impact of devaluation on prices certainly points that way.

Preparations, therefore, to be blinded by science. To start with, we have the return of the blip, made notorious by Nigel Lawson in different circumstances. The blip is due next spring, when the

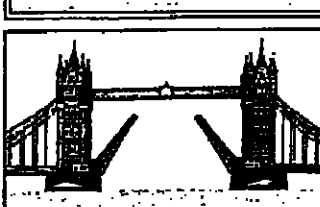
council tax bonus and the last mortgage interest rate cuts fall out of the retail price index calculation, relief is restricted to the basic tax rate and there are big rises in indirect tax rates compared to the year before. But don't worry. Underlying inflation will still be on course for about 3 per cent in two years time, which the Bank now conveniently regards as the horizon for current policymaking.

To underline the point, the Bank is reviving an earlier Lawson dictum that price rises imposed by government do not count as inflation. Remember when we were told to focus on RPIX, a measure excluding mortgages. Now the Bank is promoting RPIY, which also excludes VAT, local taxes and excise duties. There could be yet more variations on the way to that ultimate goal of excluding everything and measuring inflation in real terms.

Even that would not solve all the image problems. RPI measures are the only ones formally targeted in anti-inflation policy, but the Bank must monitor a variety of indicators of inflationary conditions. Some of the most important, including pay and credit, are somnolent. Others are already showing amber or even red lights, including M0, the narrow money supply, asset prices and factory gate prices. The mental gymnastics at the Bank over M0 growth, now at 5.4 per cent and accelerating, are already painful to watch. They would become excruciating if growth rose above 6.5 per cent, the limit consistent with policy if there were no growth in velocity of circulation. For now, the Bank is still relying on the blip theory.

where some form of dialogue can (hopefully) be struck up with the purveyor, will play a key role in the distribution scenario but this has not prevented the consortia from holding talks with virtually all the major high street chains, including WH Smith, J Sainsbury, Tesco, Safeway, Kingfisher and, inevitably, Marks and Spencer. Whatever the sales pitch — bearing in mind the fact that retail commission is expected to account for as much as one third of the operators' estimated 15 per cent take of a perceived £2 billion-£4 billion turnover — it is clear that chairman Sir Richard Greenbury and his Baker Street brethren are far from convinced that the introduction of lottery terminals into M&S's 300 UK stores are a

PENNINGTON



necessary adjunct to the sale of lingerie and the like.

Sir Richard, confirming M&S's stand, told *The Times* yesterday: "We have been approached in various ways regarding our possible participation. We have said no. We do not think it is right for us although it might be right for others."

That said, Marks and Spencer's interim results are due to be released at around 10.30 this morning, a matter of hours after Sainsbury checks in. Analysts expect the UK's two leading retailers to register more than useful pre-tax profit growth, with M&S — believed to have benefited from its "outstanding value" campaign — expected to achieve a pre-tax profit upsurge from £257 million to upwards of £285 million. What analysts and economists alike will be focussing on is sales growth — on a like-for-like basis — and an indication of the extent to which customers, rather than suppliers, have contributed to margins.

As for the lottery consortia, they are left to wait on publication by Peter Davis, director general of the National Lottery, of a draft tendering document — expected within

10 days — along with crucial news as to the proposed length of the licence. Also of interest will be the government's thoughts regarding its vesting process in order to establish whether a prospective operator is "fit and proper".

M&S, with more than £220 million of unit trust funds under management, presumably feels too fit and too proper.

### For Renault-Volvo see British Leyland

□ VOLVO'S Pehr Gyllenhammar has surely finally blown it. His vision of merging Volvo's vehicle operations with Renault looks like a new British Leyland. Renault is not as awful as the old British Motor Holdings, but its management will be in charge and the combined group will be state-controlled from the start.

True, the French government hopes to privatise Renault, but there is no absolute commitment establishment control would be entrenched and, just to make sure, the French state would retain a golden share holding sway over Volvo's Swedish ve-

hicle operations. As Sweden's appalled institutional investors have been reminded, that would itself reduce the value of their holdings.

If liberal Swedes still doubted their own doubts, they will have been convinced of the fatuity of Mr Gyllenhammar's very personal deal by the French government's decision to allow Renault management reforms at the first whiff of grapes. When Renault-Volvo went the way of BL, it would be high-wage Volvo factories that closed.

Swedish worries of being beached on Europe's periphery are understandable but its visionary magnates are so anxious to see the wood from the trees that they are blundering into the branches. Mr Gyllenhammar has put the vote on the deal off for a month to drum up support, presumably waving a piece of paper from the Matignon in aid. He should put it off far longer.

Renault and Volvo may fit and have co-operated well on the way to their ever closer union. But the financial structure is a recipe for disaster. Only a free-standing company lacking dominant shareholders with different agendas could stand much chance. That could only happen after Renault has been privatised, on terms that would make such a merger possible.

## MEPC pays £115m to double its size in US

By CARL MORTISHED

MEPC, Britain's second largest quoted property company, is doubling the size of its American holdings with a share and cash offer for American Property Trust, the owner of two shopping centres in Los Angeles and Atlanta.

MEPC is paying £115 million for APT, a unit trust owned entirely by UK pension funds, 75 per cent of which have undertaken to accept the offer. MEPC is issuing up to 22.65 million shares in payment, but the pension funds can opt to take up to one fifth of the consideration in cash, which MEPC will fund out of its own resources.

The American deal is the first big transaction since MEPC's £222 million rights issue in July. James Tuckey, chief executive, said the acquisition would enhance earnings and bring more institutions to the company's shareholder base. "We think we are buying assets at a low point in the cycle and issuing paper at a premium to market forecasts of our net asset value," he said. At 533p yesterday, MEPC shares were at a 15 per cent premium to average market forecasts of the company's net asset value per share of about 465p.

The two shopping centres were valued at \$329 million in June, and MEPC is paying £115 million for stated net assets at the end of June of £145.6 million, but will also be taking on borrowings of \$176 million. Northridge Fashion Center, with 1.5 million sq ft of retail space, is located in the San Fernando Valley, near Los Angeles, and is 95 per cent let. Cumberland Mall, in At-

lanta, Georgia, is 93 per cent let with 1.15 million sq ft.

APT earned £4.4 million before tax from the shopping centres in the year to June 30, but according to Mr Tuckey, the figures represent only interest earned in loans to the holding company, which owns the buildings.

MEPC estimates that the pre-tax yield on the net assets of the two centres will be 8 per cent, rising to 9 per cent when vacant space is let and after anticipated cost reductions.

Mr Tuckey said that he expected the APT acquisition to follow the success of MEPC's previous corporate deals, such as the acquisitions of Oldham Estates and EPIC. "The group needs earnings and this acquisition will provide us with a good solid stream. Our dividend cover has been thin, to say the least," he said.

Tempus, page 29



Tuckey: helps earnings

# Before you sign any deals abroad, make sure you've got all the facts.



### Daimler may cut dividend

FROM AP IN BERLIN

DAIMLER-BENZ, Germany's largest company, said it might cut its 1993 dividend, so that shareholders, as well as employees, made sacrifices in the group's worst year since the second world war.

Last month, Daimler became the first German company to have its shares listed on the New York Stock Exchange and Mercedes-Benz, the group's motor division, is to build a plant in Alabama.

Edzard Reuter, chairman, had previously said Daimler would try to hold the dividend. About 49,000 of the present 365,000 jobs are to be cut. "There has to be a sacrifice for all," Herr Reuter said, adding, however, that shareholders had "a right to receive a reasonable return on capital".

For the first half of this year, Daimler swung to a loss of DM949 million from a DM965 million profit the previous time. The 1993 dividend will be decided next May.

Tempus, page 29

### BCCI case may be dropped

FROM WOLFGANG MUNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

PROSECUTORS are seeking the dismissal of all criminal charges against the last defendant in the BCCI trial, ending one of the most contentious and bungled legal battles in recent US legal history.

Robert Morgenthau, the New York District Attorney, asked for all charges against Clark Clifford, aged 86, a Washington lawyer and former presidential adviser, to be dropped on grounds that he was "physically and medically not capable of withstanding a trial" after heart surgery.

The intervention may constitute a convenient retreat for the prosecution, whose legal case collapsed more than two months ago when Robert Altman, the co-defendant and Mr Clifford's law partner, was founded not guilty on all criminal charges against him.

Mr Clifford and Mr Altman, who acted as lawyers to BCCI, were charged last year with lying to banking regulators, falsifying records, and accepting bribes.

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# Renault-Volvo marriage falters on way to altar

Swedish objections to the degree of control the proposals potentially give the French are throwing doubts on the merger, says Colin Narbrough

Volvo, the Swedish carmaker, is a symbol of national industrial pride that the Swedes want kept out of the traditionally dirigiste hands of French government. Pressure from the media and, more importantly, worried institutional investors, has forced the Volvo board to postpone the extraordinary shareholders' meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, to approve the merger deal between Volvo's car and truck operations and Renault, France's state-owned automotive group. The meeting will now take place on December 7.

The issue is whether the cross-border merger plan, as set out in a memorandum of understanding in Paris on September 6, can proceed in its present form, given the mounting Swedish objections to the degree of control it potentially gives the French. Some opponents would like the deal aborted forthwith. While nobody is seriously questioning the industrial logic of the proposed marriage, which the rather optimistic partners-to-be expect to produce savings of no less than £30 billion by the end of the decade, the question of where ultimate control of the combined companies' destiny is the cause of acrimonious dispute.

Not that the marriage plan comes as a surprise. The two companies have been engaged in an alliance, with large cross-holdings, for nearly four years. With chill winds threatening to sweep away large parts of the European motor industry, formalising the Renault-Volvo relationship promises economies to improve the joint companies' chances of long-term survival, especially in the truck business. Marriage seemed inevitable. The sticking point remains the settlement of details.

The deal, supposed to be in place by January, would in volume terms create the world's third-largest truckmaker and sixth-biggest car group. Against a backdrop of heavy losses in the motor industry in Europe, Renault's pre-tax profits slumped 87 per cent in the first half of this year, while Volvo managed to return a profit after a hard struggle. The case for an early wedding appeared compelling. It did not take long for industry analysts, who accepted that Renault and Volvo had performed relatively well through the recession, to start suggesting that the what had started out in 1990 as a 50-50 alliance had turned into a 65-35 betrothal, with the French the dominant partner in Renault-Volvo.

The "golden share" required by the French government to safeguard a national asset against hostile takeover after its intended privatisation of Renault was initially seen as innocent enough. But closer scrutiny of the defensive arrangement has subsequently put it centre-stage among the concerns of Swedish opponents of the deal. As important institutional shareholders went public with their decision to oppose the merger plan, the French government's ignominious retreat from a confrontation with the trades unions over streamlining Air France, the national carrier, heightened Swedish anxieties about the ability of Paris to stick to its privatisation programme.

Renault, chaired by Louis Schweitzer, is due to be put on sale next year, but Edouard Balladur, the French prime minister, could be forced to let the already loose timetable slip again. Ahead of his centre-right government



Pehr Gyllenhammar, left, and Louis Schweitzer were all too happy to announce the engagement

lies continued confrontation with the farmers over the world trade agreement. A fight with workers fearing more job cuts in the motor industry would require a firmness from the Balladur regime that is yet not assured. Pehr Gyllenhammar, Volvo's chairman, earmarked for the chairmanship of the supervisory board of Renault-Volvo, was outwardly unruffled yesterday, despite the decision to delay the meeting for "clarification". Mr Gyllenhammar ruled out any new merger agreement and rejected any suggestion that there was anything inately wrong with the merger plan. Shortcomings on presentation was the most he would concede. However, students of corporate Sweden will recall that Mr Gyllenhammar, for all his vision during Volvo's years of expansion, has been badly off beam before with his strategic moves.

Opponents of the merger deal feel he has exercised too much leadership with too little regard for the wider consequences. Some of his directors have accused Mr Gyllenhammar of failing to obtain prior board approval of the "golden share" deal, an unfamiliar mechanism in Sweden.

Outbursts in the usually measured Swedish press have revealed a widespread dissatisfaction about Mr Gyllenhammar's handling of the merger negotiations. He even stands accused of going for a tie-up "at any price", provided he emerged as the chairman. More significantly, Sören Gyll, the Volvo chief executive, also appears to be more responsive to objections to the marriage than Mr Gyllenhammar, making clear that he is open to seeing whether the preconditions exist for demanding changes to the deal from

the French. He lists a possible demand for a more precise commitment from Paris on the Renault privatisation to among the possibilities.

Swedish shareholders fear that the French government could use its "golden share" to force Volvo to reduce its initial 35 per cent of voting rights in Renault-Volvo to as little as 20 per cent, in the event that the planned holding company is dissolved. Mr Gyllenhammar might be confident that this will not happen. But investors, already fearful that hold-ups in the French privatisation programme could leave them with shares in a company 65 per cent owned by the French state, have yet to be convinced. Trusting Mr Gyllenhammar no longer appears enough in Sweden's deregulated, increasingly open stock market.

The Swedish Small Shareholders' Association, which launched the public protest against merger last month, remains firmly committed to stopping the wedding. The anti-merger camp has secured powerful support from former directors of Volvo, including Gunnar Johansson, its former president, who as current directors of Fond 92-94, a major Swedish investment fund, have come out against the deal. Although Mr Gyllenhammar can count on affiliates, among which Renault figures with its 10 per cent cross-holding in Volvo, and several of its biggest shareholders, the merger requires the blessing of at least 50 per cent of Volvo's voting shares. But an advisory group at Trygg-Hansa, the Swedish insurance group which holds 3.4 per cent, has this week recommended a no vote, joining the Fond 92-94, a workers' fund that holds 2.5 per cent, and the

small shareholders. The Fourth National Pension Insurance Fund, with 7.4 per cent, will decide its position today. As Sweden's biggest corporation Volvo faces other complications arising from its troubles over its plan for marrying off its automotive operations. The deal Mr Gyllenhammar concluded with the Swedish government in June to make a public offering of shares in Branded Consumer Products (BCP), one of two companies to emerge from splitting up Procordia, the pharmaceutical and consumer goods group in which the Swedish state and Volvo were main shareholders, also becomes more difficult. A no vote against the Renault-Volvo merger would mean that a new share issue to Procordia's BCP shareholders would be required, as valuations used for the deal were based on the assumption that the Renault-Volvo merger went through.

Renault has been keeping a low profile throughout the turmoil in Sweden. Its comments on the postponement of the Volvo shareholders' meeting indicated no alarm. This was clearly a matter for the Swedes to resolve. But the bottom line for Renault remained clear. The merger agreement of September will not be changed. While Volvo shareholders are justifiably seeking as much information about the detail and future implications of the merger plan before casting their votes, the marriage has engaged less rational sentiments of nationalism and entered the political stage too. The delay gives the Volvo board an opportunity to press the French for slight changes in the balance of power, even to alter the shareholding ratio a little in the Swedes' favour. Above all, however, what Mr Gyllenhammar needs to secure is a clear statement from the French government committing M Balladur to privatising Renault as soon as possible. Anything less could mean a nasty divorce even before the nuptials begin.

There are fears that the French could use the 'golden share' to force Volvo to reduce its initial 35 per cent of voting rights to 20 per cent

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### A change from road training

FIRST Rebecca Stephens. Then the Duchess of York. Now, a 46-year-old London librarian is bound for Everest. Kathy Criley, librarian and information officer at Fishburn Bower, a firm of solicitors, leaves for Kathmandu on Sunday to prepare for a gruelling event that will see 70 athletes from around the world trek 120 miles to Gorak Shep, just below Everest Base Camp, then run 26 miles through snow, ice and whatever else the Himalayas can throw at them. The route takes the runners across Khumbu Glacier, over ice bridges and along narrow ledges with vertical 1,000ft drops — and all in sub-zero temperatures. "I began to get fed up with road running," says Criley, who has worked for SJ Berwin, Ashurst Morris Crisp and Herbert Smith. "Most of the course is downhill — from 17,500ft to about 12,000ft — but there are two horrendous ascents." Criley was the first woman to enter the 100 km Kalahari race in Botswana, has tackled the 58-mile Comrades Marathon in South Africa, and has won several

24-hour races — leaving her well-placed for her latest challenge. Any sponsorship money she raises will go to the Everest Marathon Fund, which assists medical and educational projects in the high Himalayas and rural Nepal. Who said librarians lacked spark?

### Twin beds

HEARTIEST congratulations to Clive Watson, finance director of Regent Inns, the London public house operator, and now a proud father. His wife, Fiona, gave birth yesterday to Tiffany, a 7lb 11oz baby girl, after what may rank as one of the most stressful periods of

Watson's life. His mother-in-law, Margaret Lygo, flew in from Sydney before the birth to keep a watchful eye on proceedings. No sooner had she arrived than Watson was urgently summoned to the hospital. After a frantic dash, he was greeted by the sight of... his mother-in-law, who had checked in with a bad back. Mother, baby and mother-in-law are doing well.

### Rates rule

RUPERT Pennant-Rea, deputy Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday told the parliamentary Treasury select committee that interest rates are at an appropriate level.

Well, what he actually said was: "Rates are as they are because we think that's where they ought to be and if we didn't think that they wouldn't be where they are." Er, fine.

### Presidential suite

MICHAEL Heseltine's return to health and prominence is, I hear, set to provide an unexpected boost for the UK construction industry. The DTI is poised to announce multi-million contracts for the refurbishment of 1-19 Victoria Street — the HQ it vacated some months ago. The project, the go-ahead for which has awaited Heseltine's presence, will give him the chance to redesign the rather tacky suite of offices on the top floor, with its uninspiring Sixties interior. If anyone from the Public Accounts committee dares to object, he will reply that he is squeezing twice as many civil servants into the refurbished buildings as there were before. The DTI will shuttle its staff around Victoria Street while the work goes on.

### High-flier

BARRY Tyler, managing director of Bell Lawrie White's office in Cardiff has just cele-

brated his 40th birthday in style. During the summer, Tyler, popularly known as "The Welsh Wizard", spent long, extended spells out of the office and could only be reached by mobile telephone. Now, admiring staff have learnt that he has been awarded his private pilot's licence — a feat which, as any City flier knows, requires at least 40 (daylight) hours in the air. Well, that would explain the buzzing sound on those calls...

### Back to school

CITY University Business School is seeking candidates for three new professional chairs to coincide with its centenary next year. While academics from all over the world are being invited to apply, David Kaye, dean, hopes some recommendations will come from members of the UK business community. Successful candidates take up the Centenary Chairs from the start of the 1994 academic year.

MESSAGE on a T-shirt of a jogger passing through Somerton in Somerset. On the front it read: "Where's Asil?" And on the back: "Nad-ir".

JON ASHWORTH

## TEMPUS

### Shopping in America

MEPC's American acquisition could be just what the market was looking for. Having restored the balance sheet in last July's cash call, shareholders wanted evidence that their confidence in the management was not misplaced. The twin shopping mall deal should perform the useful dual function of providing a fillip to earnings, while investing in retail assets at a low point in the cycle. In addition, the pension funds are cashing in their property investment at a discount to assets in exchange for MEPC shares issued at a premium: no small endorsement for a company that was in recent times pilloried for its over-exposure to office development.

MEPC needs more income and the American shopping centres should help the company to cover its dividend in a period when the portfolio is showing no organic growth

and rent-free periods are holding back the contribution from let developments.

The management is showing some courage in expanding in a market which has proved a graveyard for so many, including MEPC, whose American office developments were an expensive mistake. But the signs are that this time MEPC is buying assets near the bottom, rather than the top, of the cycle. The shopping centres are highly geared to income growth, since rents are linked to turnover, so a resumption of consumer spending in America should increase the yield on MEPC's investment. MEPC shareholders may be wary of a continuing decline in the Californian economy, but the company should be congratulated for finding a more imaginative strategy than chasing down retail investment yields in the UK.

### Amber Day

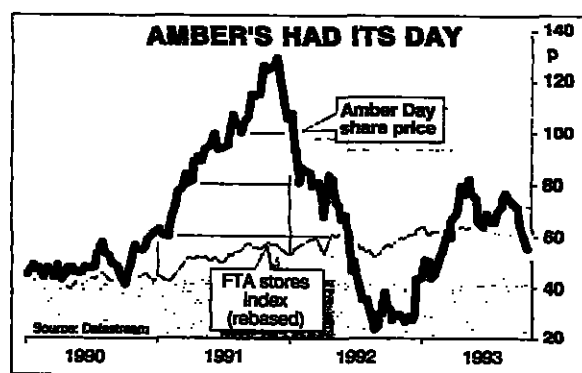
THE most surprising aspect of Amber Day's results was not the £9 million exceptional charge, £500,000 higher than forecast a month ago, nor even the £500,000 paid to Stacey Ellis, chairman, for just seven months, but the absence of the anticipated cash call.

Peter Carr, the new chairman, may have avoided it this time, but a rights issue seems inevitable. The group has a deficit on its profit and loss account of £13.6 million, yet it plans to expand the Wharfe Everyone Wants (WEW) chain from 56 to 125 stores within five years. Without new funding this will be difficult. Given that Warburg Pincus, which holds 12 per cent, has agreed to support a rights issue, the temptation may prove too strong to resist. For shareholders,

the question is whether Amber Day, now stripped down to the WEW chain, can generate sustainable profit growth. WEW produces decent margins of 10 per cent and more, but expansion is not without its risks. In the past, double-digit returns came from opportunistic buying of manufacturers' excess stock. As recession

has forced manufacturers to scale back, these opportunities have become rarer. Moreover, the discount market is becoming increasingly competitive as major multiples enter the fray.

Given Amber's history of disappointing the market and the likelihood of a cash call, the shares are going nowhere fast.



### Ashtead Group

THERE are only two questions to ask about the £20.4 million cash-raising exercise by Ashtead at a time when the construction industry is still deep in recession — is it at the right stage in the cycle, and can the management be trusted to spend the money wisely?

Ashtead, will have almost £9 million in the bank after the rights and has clearly lined up several prospective purchasers. The company's record throughout the recession suggests an ability to manage such purchases through lean times, even if future add-ons are not as reasonable as the most recent, which was bought for half book value.

As to timing, the board points to the publication of a 2 per cent rise in prices that has stuck since spring, even though most customers face further lean years. Ashtead has lessened its dependency on mainstream construction by seeking business elsewhere, while the recession has cut competition from independents. The shares, which managed a small rise

on news of the one-for-three rights, now sell on 21 times revised earnings for the current year. The market has clearly already decided the issue is heading for success.

### Trafalgar House

SWISS Bank Corporation is earning a decent living from Trafalgar House. Yesterday it announced an option deal designed to enable Trafalgar to buy in £39 million of an expensive Eurobond issue with the money the group plans to raise from its £400 million preference share issue next month, the fourth Trafalgar-related equity transaction SBC has done this year. Originally in the role of poacher, its option deals delivered Trafalgar into the effective control of Hongkong Land. Now as gamekeeper, it is using more options to cut the group's interest bill by bridging a modest refinancing. The latest deal allows bondholders to switch into more attractive paper. Even if this means selling cheap, they might consider it worthwhile given

the uncertainty over Trafalgar's financial position. Trafalgar does not have to pay for the bonds until February, while SBC takes a handsome turn in the middle at minimal risk. If Trafalgar continues to generate so much work, SBC will not need many other clients.

### Daimler-Benz

OFFICIALS at the SEC in Washington must have suffered apoplexy after the chairman of Daimler-Benz forecast a dividend cut on German television only a month after his group won its New York listing. Their blood pressure must have risen further after Daimler's shares rose in Frankfurt, suggesting that German investors either did not believe him, or reckoned any cut would be insignificant. With Daimler poised to launch a rights issue, and Deutsche Bank keen to offload a 3 per cent stake, the group cannot afford to alienate investors with a heavy dividend cut. Hence the absence of market alarm. But Edvard Reuter has much to learn about price sensitive information.



**FACT :** Recent yearly figures suggest that 5.5 million days were lost through manual handling injuries.

As an employer it is your responsibility to assess potential problems, avoid them where possible and make your workforce aware of how they should approach manual handling tasks.

To lighten the load, the HSE have put together a useful free information pack. It helps you by:

- providing a simple, practical manual handling risk assessment checklist
- suggesting simple and cost-effective solutions
- giving advice on handling techniques

Send for your information pack today. It could take a lot of weight off your shoulders.

Please send me a "Lighten the Load" information pack (allow 28 days for delivery).

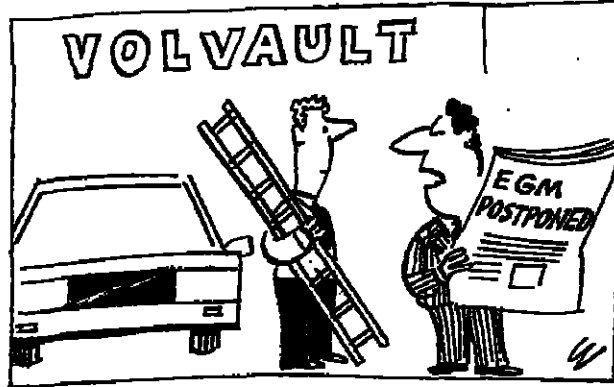
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: HSE, Workplace Unit 305-11, Green Industrial Estate, Harlow Street, Liverpool L4 0DY.

FREEPHONE : 0800 500 565



"Meanwhile we shall spell it Volvo if you don't mind"



# WIGMORE

PROPERTY INVESTMENT TRUST plc  
(INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND AND WALES UNDER THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 - REGISTERED NO. 2862492)

## OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION AND PLACING

by  
**PARIBAS LIMITED**  
of up to  
**50,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each (with one Warrant attached for every five Ordinary Shares)**  
at 100p per Ordinary Share payable in full on application of which 19,360,657 Ordinary Shares are being placed with institutions and other investors (including property companies) and 30,639,343 Ordinary Shares are available for subscription by the public

### MINI-PROSPECTUS

This Mini-Prospectus contains brief particulars relating to Wigmore Property Investment Trust plc ("the Company") and the Offer and the Placing. It contains information in summary form drawn from the Listing Particulars relating to the Company, dated 2nd November 1993, which are available to the public in full from the Company and the Offer and the Placing. Copies of the Listing Particulars are available from the address set out below until the Offer closes. They are also available, for collection only, from the Company's offices at the address set out below.

In applying for Ordinary Shares (with Warrants attached) you will be treated as applying on the basis of the Listing Particulars, which should be read in conjunction with this document, and the Terms and Conditions of Application set out below. The Listing Particulars contain the full details of the Company and the Offer and the Placing. The Listing Particulars have the same status as this document. This document is not for distribution outside the UK, nor should it be treated as an offer or solicitation outside the UK.

The Directors are satisfied that this Mini-Prospectus contains a fair summary of the information set out in the Listing Particulars. Paribas is acting for the Company in relation to the Offer and the Placing and is not acting as an adviser to investors or as an adviser to the Company in relation to the Offer and the Placing.

Paribas, on behalf of the Company, is offering up to 50,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each (with one Warrant attached for every five Ordinary Shares) of which 19,360,657 Ordinary Shares are being placed with institutions and other investors and 30,639,343 Ordinary Shares are available for subscription by the public. The minimum size of application is for 500 Ordinary Shares.

Pursuant to the Placing, irrevocable underakings have been received by Paribas from institutional and other investors (including property companies) to subscribe for 19,360,657 Ordinary Shares (with Warrants attached) at 100p per Ordinary Share. These Ordinary Shares will be placed with institutions and other investors and 30,639,343 Ordinary Shares are available for subscription by the public. The minimum size of application is for 500 Ordinary Shares.

Certain of such underakings from property companies to subscribe for 19,360,657 Ordinary Shares (with Warrants attached) are on terms that, if the underakings are not accepted, the Company (including any cash subscribed pursuant to the underakings) shall be liable to the Company and the Placing, such underakings will be used to subscribe for the Company's securities to the extent permitted by the Listing Particulars and the Terms and Conditions of Application set out below. The Listing Particulars contain the full details of the Company and the Offer and the Placing. The Listing Particulars have the same status as this document. This document is not for distribution outside the UK, nor should it be treated as an offer or solicitation outside the UK.

Paribas has agreed to underwrite up to a maximum of 30,639,343 Ordinary Shares (with Warrants attached) at the Offer Price at which, when aggregated with the Placed Shares and Ordinary Shares subscribed pursuant to the Offer, would equal 50,000,000 Ordinary Shares. The remaining Ordinary Shares being offered pursuant to the Offer and the Placing have not been underwritten.

Unless a minimum of 20,000,000 Ordinary Shares are subscribed pursuant to the Offer and the Placing, neither the Offer nor the Placing will proceed. Remittance will be returned if this minimum subscription level is not reached.

UK Property Market

After a period of growth in the mid to late 1980s, the UK property market experienced severe difficulties in the years 1990-1992. During this period, there was a dramatic decline in rental and capital values, particularly for the office sector of the property market and over the last 18 months, the market has shown signs of recovery. The market is now showing signs of recovery and various property indices indicate a significant fall in capital values for central London office and retail property since late 1992.

Despite the continuing recovery of property, the rapid fall in short term interest rates following the UK's withdrawal from the ERM in mid-September, 1992, helped to take the upward pressure off investment yields. A significant factor in the second half of 1992 and early 1993 in the improvement in the property investment market was the acquisition by foreign investors of a significant proportion of the UK property market. It appears likely that the high level of foreign investment (typically around 8% to 10%) is generally available for these specific types of property. The Property Adviser believes that this renewed interest in the UK property market has led to a significant improvement in the market and that the market is now showing signs of recovery.

In view of the Property Adviser, the outlook for UK property values is now significantly more encouraging than it was in 1992 and, in general, assuming continued economic recovery, the Property Adviser believes that the level of investment yields should continue to fall while interest rates remain low and prospects for growth generally in rental values remain positive. Smaller Quoted Property Companies

The share prices of many of the smaller property companies have fallen faster than those of larger companies over the last few years and in some cases smaller property companies have gone into receivership or administration or they have cut their dividend payments. This document is in smaller property companies share prices is believed by the Manager to be a reflection of the market's view of the future of the sector.

(a) the greater risks to smaller property companies in terms of exposure to high levels of debt, secondary property companies and the fact that a smaller number of property companies have achieved high stock market ratings either in the form of earnings multiples predicted on expected but subsequently unfulfilled trading and development trading profits, or earnings multiples predicted on expected but subsequently unfulfilled trading and development trading profits, or earnings multiples predicted on expected but subsequently unfulfilled trading and development trading profits.

(b) some smaller companies experienced difficulties in raising finance at a time when the market was flooded with new developments, there was often a critical problem in obtaining the required financing and the inability to cut overheads and consequently the disproportionately high management charges when compared to the returns of larger property companies.

(c) as a result of the more widely held view of recovery prospects in the real property market it is the Manager's opinion that investors' concerns about smaller companies are now diminishing. In these circumstances investors' interest in smaller property companies is likely to increase and the Manager believes that smaller property companies will be able to raise finance more readily than in the past.

The graph of the Smaller Property Companies Index relative to the All Share Index in the Chart indicates significant underperformance from December 1988 to a date just past August 1992 (coinciding almost exactly with the UK's exit from the ERM) and shows a significant recovery in the index since then. The Manager believes that smaller property companies may in the future outperform larger property companies, but, in the meantime, the following reasons:

(a) generally smaller companies are more flexible in their ability to reposition their portfolios and so can often take advantage more effectively of growth areas in the property market. One major transaction can transform a smaller company into a large company in terms of size and the nature of its portfolio.

### KEY INFORMATION

The key information set out below is derived from and should be read in conjunction with the full text of the Listing Particulars.

#### Investment Policy

- Wigmore Property Investment Trust plc is a new investment trust. The principal objectives of the Company are the capital appreciation of its assets and above average dividend growth, primarily through the management of a portfolio of securities of smaller and medium-sized UK quoted property companies.
- The Company's portfolio will consist principally of quoted ordinary shares (and other quoted securities) in property companies which have, or had during 1993, a market capitalisation (in ordinary share capital) of up to £250 million.
- The Company will seek to invest mainly in property investment companies where it believes that management expertise and financial resources will be covered by anticipated rental income. In addition, where the potential return is perceived to justify the enhanced risk, the Company will invest in quoted property development and trading companies (including housebuilders) and property agencies.
- Up to 20% of the Company's Net Asset Value from time to time may be invested in what are considered by the Directors to be special situations. These may include, inter alia, providing finance for corporate restructurings.

#### The Directors, the Manager and the Property Adviser

- The Directors are David Pickford (Chairman), John Gibson and Colin Munday.
- The Manager of the Company is Barings Investment Management Limited.
- Barings, Houston & Saunders Limited is the property adviser to the Company.

#### Initial Portfolio

Pursuant to the Placing, Paribas has received irrevocable underakings from certain institutional and other investors (including property companies) to subscribe for 19,360,657 Ordinary Shares (with Warrants attached) at 100p per Ordinary Share. These Ordinary Shares will be placed with institutions and other investors and 30,639,343 Ordinary Shares are available for subscription by the public. The minimum size of application is for 500 Ordinary Shares.

#### PEP and Savings Scheme

The Directors intend that the Company should be managed so that the Ordinary Shares will qualify for inclusion in general PEPs throughout the Company's life.

The Company has established a savings scheme which will enable investors to save on a regular and/or lump sum basis.

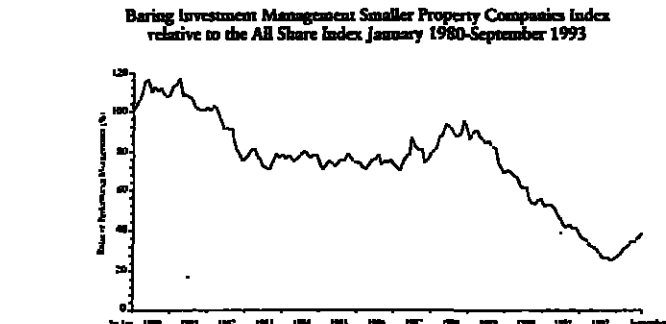
#### Expected Timeline

- Latest time for receipt of Applications Forms: 10 a.m. on 17th November, 1993
- Start of allocation expected to be announced: 16th November, 1993
- Start of the Placing of Ordinary Shares and the Warrants expected to commence separately: 24th November, 1993
- Definitive Certificates in respect of Ordinary Shares and Warrants expected to be despatched: 25th November, 1993

(b) the application of entrepreneurial management skills to the selection of a focused portfolio of assets under management may be able to achieve higher rates of growth and

(c) many smaller property companies have a higher level of borrowings relative to their gross assets than larger companies. The effect of this will be to reduce the net asset value of the Company in the early stages of its life.

#### Barings Investment Management Smaller Property Companies Index relative to the All Share Index January 1980-September 1993



Source: Barings Investment Management Limited.

#### Investment Policy

The principal objectives of the Company are the capital growth of its assets and above average dividend growth through the management of a portfolio of securities, primarily ordinary shares and other securities of smaller UK quoted property companies.

The Company will seek to invest mainly in property investment companies. These will be mainly commercial property companies. As a guideline, the Manager will seek to acquire securities in investment companies where it believes that management expertise and financial resources will be covered by anticipated rental income. In addition, where the potential return is perceived to justify the enhanced risk, the Company will invest in quoted property development and trading companies (including housebuilders) and property agencies.

Up to 20% of the Company's Net Asset Value from time to time may be invested in what are considered by the Directors to be special situations. These may include, inter alia, providing finance for corporate restructurings.

Under its Articles of Association, the Company may borrow money in an aggregate amount not exceeding 50% of its share capital, for the purpose of enabling it to acquire securities in investment companies where it believes that management expertise and financial resources will be covered by anticipated rental income.

The Directors, who are responsible for the implementation of the investment policy of the Company, are all independent of the Manager. They are David Pickford, who is Chairman of Compton Holdings plc, a number of unlisted property companies and Lippitt Property Trust and Graham Development Property Unit Trust; John Gibson, who is the Managing Director of Barings Investment Management Limited; and Colin Munday, who is a Director of Taylor Woodrow Property Company Limited. All of the Directors are non-executive.

Investment Management and Administration

Investment management services will be provided to the Company by Barings Investment Management Limited, a member of BMO, under the overall supervision of the Directors.

Barings Investment Management Limited is a member of the Barings Group and currently manages over £6.5 billion of assets for UK pension funds, placing it in the top ten of UK pension fund managers. As part of its investment management capabilities, the Manager has a dedicated research team responsible for the property sector. In total the Barings Group manages in excess of £27 billion of assets worldwide.

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The property adviser to the Manager is Barings, Houston & Saunders Limited. The two specialist services provided by the Property Adviser are property asset management and property finance. The Property Adviser will generally assist the Manager with its strategy in the selection of the Company's portfolio. In addition, it will provide the Manager with up-to-date information on, and trends in, the real property market.

Under a management agreement an annual management fee equivalent to 1% of Net Asset Value for the first £30 million of Net Asset Value and 0.75% in respect of any excess Net Asset Value will be payable to the Company by the Manager. The fee will be payable in arrears. The Manager will be responsible for the remuneration of the Property Adviser on such fee. Administration services will be provided by Barings Investment Services Limited on payment by the Company, on twelve instalments monthly in arrears, of an annual administration fee equal to 0.25% of Net Asset Value.

Other Information

The Company

It is intended that the Company will be managed so as to qualify for approval under section 842 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 as an investment trust.

The Company will offer investors an opportunity to achieve a diversified investment exposure to the smaller companies in the UK property market. The Company will offer investors an opportunity to achieve a diversified investment exposure to the smaller companies in the UK property market. The Company will offer investors an opportunity to achieve a diversified investment exposure to the smaller companies in the UK property market.

The Directors believe that a closed-ended investment trust is an appropriate vehicle for the long-term management of a portfolio of securities in smaller property companies. The management of open-ended funds can be difficult in market conditions where there are large redemptions, volatile price movements and wide spreads in the prices of smaller companies' securities coupled with low liquidity.

Ordinary Shares and Warrants

The Ordinary Shares will carry all rights to dividends and return of capital.

The Warrants will be allocated to small subscribers of the Ordinary Shares in the ratio of one for five and will be separately issued and tradable. Each Warrant will entitle its holder to subscribe for one Ordinary Share on 31st January in each year until, if later, the date thirty days after the date on which copies of the audited accounts of the Company for that year are made available to shareholders. The Warrants will be exercisable until 31st January 1994.

Dividends of the Company

An ordinary resolution will be proposed at the annual general meeting of the Company in 2004 (and at every fifth subsequent annual general meeting) to the effect that the Company should continue as an investment trust. If such resolution is not passed, the Directors will prepare and submit to shareholders (for approval by special resolution) proposals for the continuation or other reconstruction or winding-up of the Company.

Dividend Policy and Accounts

It is the Directors' intention that substantially all the income of the Company, after expenses and tax will be distributed to shareholders. Under no circumstances will the Company retain in respect of any accounting period more than 15% of its income in order to provide for contingencies.

The Directors expect to pay net dividends to shareholders in respect of an interim dividend and a final dividend. The Company's annual accounts will be made up to 30th September in each year and the first accounting period will end on 30th September 1994. An interim dividend is expected to be announced in April and expected to be paid in May and the final dividend is expected to be announced in November and expected to be paid in January. It is currently the Directors' intention to announce an interim dividend in respect of the period ending 31st March 1994.

Factors

Investors contemplating an investment in the Ordinary Shares and Warrants of the Company should recognise that the investment value of the Ordinary Shares and Warrants and, in the case of Ordinary Shares, income (if any) derived from them, may fluctuate and they may not receive back the full amount invested.

Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the market price of the Ordinary Shares will reflect the net asset value of the Company. Shareholders should also be aware that a portfolio of smaller property company securities may not have the liquidity of a portfolio of securities of larger and more marketable companies. As a result, the management of such a portfolio may be more difficult in periods of economic downturn or recession and the difference between the bid and offer prices at which the Company's securities are quoted by market makers may be proportionately greater than might be the case for securities issued by a general investment trust.

In the section headed UK Property Market, a view has been expressed to the effect that the outlook for UK property values is significantly more encouraging. In the section headed Smaller Quoted Property Companies, views have been expressed to the effect that the shares of smaller and medium-sized property companies may have more potential to outperform the shares of larger property companies. It is emphasised that the above views are no more than comments (based on research and informed observation) and do not in any way constitute a guarantee of growth in either the UK and property market or the share price of any of all UK quoted property companies.

The Initial Portfolio

The Initial Portfolio which the Company expects to acquire pursuant to the Placing, conforms to the investment guidelines set out above. It has been assembled by the Manager from securities offered to the Company by institutional investors (including property companies) and companies in receipt of securities in a total of 11 of 13 different property companies. The aggregate valuation placed on these investments for the purposes of the Placing was approximately £7.5 million. The table below sets out the ten largest investments in the Initial Portfolio, all of which are investments in ordinary share capital:

Company plc	Principal activity	% of ordinary share capital	Consideration (£'000)	Proportion of gross proceeds (%)
City Site Estates	Investment	8.9	515	2.7
Chemfield Properties	Investment	0.9	860	4.4
The Ta-Land	Investment	4.1	1,018	5.3
Housing Properties	Investment	1.0	1,051	5.3
London & Associated Investment Trust	Investment	3.0	60	3.0
Office Property	Investment	5.2	316	1.6
Prior	Dealing	7.8	439	2.3
Southland Property Holdings	Investment	1.3	496	5.1
Top House	Investment	1.0	472	5.0
Town Centre Securities	Investment	0.2	270	1.4

On the assumption that these gross proceeds at the Placing include the value of any Ordinary Shares in respect of which cheques have been made but which are not the relevant securities are in fact subject to the cash terms of the Offer.

The acquisition of the Initial Portfolio will take place, subject to the Offer and the Placing having become unconditional, immediately upon Listing becoming effective.

PEP

The Directors intend that the Company should be managed so that the Ordinary Shares will be general PEP qualifying investments throughout the Company's life. The main attractions of a PEP are that dividends on investments held within a PEP are free of income tax and that any profits pursuant to a sale of shares held in a PEP are not liable to capital gains tax. Successful applicants in the Offer who have not already subscribed to a general PEP in the current tax year will be able to transfer up to £10,000 worth of Ordinary Shares into a tax free general PEP, subject to the terms and conditions of the PEP.

Savings Scheme

The Company has established a savings scheme, which will be operational after the completion of the Company's Ordinary Shares have commenced. The administration costs of the scheme are to be borne by the Company.

Selling Commission

Authorised financial intermediaries who return Applications Forms bearing their stamp and SIB number will be paid a selling commission of 1 per cent. of the Offer Price (100p per share) in respect of Ordinary Shares (with Warrants attached) for which successful applications are received. Financial intermediaries should keep a record of all Applications Forms submitted bearing their stamp for selling commission. No commission will be paid if the Offer for Ordinary Shares is not successful. Successful applications in the Offer who have not already subscribed to a general PEP in the current tax year will be able to transfer up to £10,000 worth of Ordinary Shares into a tax free general PEP, subject to the terms and conditions of the PEP.

Availability of Listing Particulars

For the Listing Particulars, this Mini-Prospectus and the Applications Form are available for collection from the Company's Announcements Office, the London Stock Exchange, Stock Exchange Tower, Capital Court Entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2, by collection only, up to and including 5th November, 1993.

Copies will also be available until the Offer closes from:

Paribas Limited, 33 Wigmore Street, London W1

Barclays Registrars, 170 Fenchurch Street, London EC3

Shearson Limited, Cannon House, 14 The Priory, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6BS (Tel: 021 200 4610)

for collection by hand (during normal business hours from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.) or to be sent by post

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**DANCE page 34**  
Romeo and Juliet: A new pair of young lovers take to the stage of the Royal Opera House

# ARTS

**CINEMA page 35**  
From Robert Altman and Merchant/Ivory to Victorian melodrama: the London Film Festival



## Whole new world on the end of a line

Tim Rice is alive and well and earning millions with his song lyrics for Disney. Interview by Richard Morrison

Fifteen years have passed since Messrs Rice and Lloyd Webber last made sweet music together. And for some of those years, at least, Tim Rice has seemed dangerously close to entering the "whatever happened to?" appendix of cultural history. After all, everybody knows what happened to Andrew. He went on to *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Starlight*, *Aspects*, *Sunset*, the multi-million income, the Calanetta, the knightship. He became Really Useful. He employed Prince Edward. But Tim? Well, he just became Moderately Useful. He persuaded the MCC to let Australia borrow the Ashes for the country's bicentenary. He lent his Cornish hideaway to Fergie in her hour of need. His compendiums of pop-song statistics were much admired. He became the first chairman of the pools-funded Foundation for Sport and the Arts — a surprising job for someone who believes most arts funding to be "wasted". He wittered charmingly on all the best chat-shows. He played a lot of cricket, and watched even more. And his 11-year romance (customarily described as "roller-coaster") with the feisty *Evita* chanteuse Elaine Paige came to the aid of many a panicking gossip-columnist on a dull Tuesday. Occasionally, it is true, he also put pen to paper and did what made him rich and famous in the first place: writing witty song-lyrics. We should pass quickly over *Blondel*, perhaps: 12th-century history has never been easy terrain for Tim Pan Alley. But *Chess*, written with the boys of Abba, achieved a very respectable West End run. For a non-Lloyd Webber musical, that is. All the same, Rice never seemed as obsessed with musicals, or indeed with making serious money, as his erstwhile partner. He counters the charge only mildly. "Andrew perhaps had a more fixed aim right from the start. I'm more focused than people think, but I certainly never felt that I had to write another lyric."

A big Hollywood deal, however, focuses the mind wonderfully. Rice now has a three-year lyric-writing contract with Disney — a studio which his penchant for puns and

pastiche surely ideally matches. It has already brought him an Oscar, his first American No 1 hit, and royalties in excess of £1 million and rising. All for what? Well, for writing fewer words than are contained in this single paragraph. It is a little dirty called "Whole New World", and it is featured in the new Disney animated blockbuster, *Aladdin*. The film opens in Britain on November 19. By then, Rice may have achieved his biggest British hit since penning that line about Argentina.

Typically, he did not hang around Los Angeles last March to hustle and bustle in

**'Andrew had a more fixed aim at the start, but I am more focused than people think'**

the approved pre-Oscar manner. "I had better things to do," he says airily. That's a matter of opinion. "Where is Tim when all this is happening to him?" asked an incredulous Lloyd Webber at the time. "He's off in South Africa watching bloody cricket." Lloyd Webber subsequently took a full-page advertisement in *Variety* to congratulate Rice in a laudatory public address. Nothing could better illustrate the difference between the two. Rice inherited the *Aladdin* commission when composer Alan Menken's usual song-writing partner, the gifted Howard Ashman, died of AIDS. Rice is also writing the words to Elton John's tunes for another Disney full-length cartoon, *The Lion King*. On top of that, he is supplying extra lyrics for an expanded, stage version of *Beauty and the Beast* — the film widely credited with bringing the Disney animation department back to the dead.

The stage *Beauty* will open in Houston next month and hit Broadway in March. If it

triumphs, it will go some way towards dispelling the malevolence that Rice has felt towards the Great White Way since the debacle of *Chess*'s two-month Broadway run in 1988: a ghastly misadventure which cost Rice a small fortune and a large amount of pride.

"Yes, *Chess* on Broadway was a cock-up of cataclysmic proportions," he confirms cheerily. "I blame myself as much as anyone. There was no cohesion, no team spirit, hundreds of chiefs and no Indians. There were factions, plots, counter-plots. Which was a pity, because I like *Chess* more than anything else I've ever done."

Of course, the timing was unlucky: a musical with a Cold War theme opening on Broadway as the Berlin Wall came down. But that's showbiz. More annoying to Rice was what he sees as an unsporting taste for Brit-bashing in the New York press. "Yes, thank God he's gone now." Are we speaking of Frank Rich, the distinguished drama critic of *The New York Times*? "Yes, he was less than fair to some British imports. He has certainly been unfair to Andrew. Yet every time he hails a great revival in the American musical it is some Gerstwin they've dug up from 60 years back."

Oh come on, Tim. Rich is not the only influential critic to have laid into Rice and/or Lloyd Webber. Bernard Levin called *Evita* "one of the most disagreeable evenings I have ever spent in my life". Clive Barnes declared *Jesus Christ Superstar* to have "minimal artistic value".

"But Rich trashed *Chess* in an ignorant way," says Rice. "He was also extremely rude about *Phantom*, a massive hit. His predecessor was excruciatingly rude about *Evita*, another massive hit. The myth that *The New York Times* critic is the 'butcher of Broadway' is simply not true. Broadway producers make a crass mistake when they kowtow to people like Rich. They inflate critics by panicking about what they're going to write."

"The *Beauty* and the *Beast* people actually said to me: 'You ought to get Frank Rich on board, show him what



Tim Rice, with the poster of Disney's *Aladdin*: the film has brought him an Oscar and his first No 1 hit in America

we're planning". I replied: "Frank Rich? The last thing you want to do is give this man the idea that he matters, or to aim your product at one twerp who might not even be reviewing that day."

It is a measure of Rice's indignation that he expends insults on a critic. After all, he has many other matters to think about. The film of *Evita*,

for instance, under discussion for 14 years, but now, the lyricist assures us, "more back-on-the-rails than it was, er, six months ago". So who will be playing *Evita*? Is Dame Edna Everage a candidate? "I would love to see Madonna do it," says Rice, adding cryptically: "Whether she's now politically too incorrect I don't know."

He also has high hopes for Tycoon, his English-language version of the late Michel Berger's musical *Starmania*, the sensation of theatre-going Paris. "It's almost the only musical ever to be a hit in France," he enthuses. "Remember, the French even made *Les Mis* a flop, which was quite an achievement. *Starmania* has a terrific rock-

opera score, and if we can do something about the semi-comprehensible plot, we could get a West End run. The English-language album has given me some of the biggest hits I've ever had." He shrugs self-deprecatingly. "Albeit in France."

Tim Rice is the subject of a South Bank Show profile this Sunday (TV, 10.45pm)

### ARTS BRIEFING

#### Yen for quality

WHAT do the painter Jasper Johns, the sculptor Max Bill, the architect Kenzo Tange, the cellist Mstislav Rostropovich and the choreographer Maurice Béjart have in common? They have all walked off with the artistic equivalent of a Nobel Prize. The 1993 Praemium Imperiale awards were handed out in Tokyo last week, with each winner receiving a commemorative medal — and £93,000. The panel of five international advisers was no less impressive: Sir Edward Heath, Jacques Chirac, Helmut Schmidt, Amintore Fanfani and David Rockefeller. The Praemium Imperiale, established in 1988, is sponsored by prominent Japanese businessmen.

● DAME Ninette de Valois will have a long-standing wish fulfilled when Birmingham Royal Ballet presents a revival of her *Job* in Coventry Cathedral on November 11. The gala performance will mark two momentous occasions: Dame Ninette's 95th birthday and the 95th anniversary of the founding of the original Coventry Abbey. The choreographer always wanted to see her 1931 "masque for dancing", based on Blake's *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*, performed in a cathedral.

#### Operatic Eire

TRUST Westford Festival Opera to come up with a typically esoteric programme for its 1994 season. In keeping with its tradition of dusting off the less-thumbed scores in the operatic repertoire, Westford is staging *The Demon*, an opera in Russian by Anton Rubinstein; Wagner's *Das Liebesverbot* (*The Ban on Love*), penned when the composer was in his early twenties; plus the "other" *La Bohème*, a lyric comedy in four acts by Leoncavallo. Next year's festival, which opens on October 20, 1994, will be the last for artistic director Elaine Padmore, who is moving on to Copenhagen.

● THE Perm Ballet will be flying to the rescue of the Dergate Theatre in Northampton this holiday season after a new version of *The Nutcracker* had to be cancelled. The French company, Ballet du Nord, pulled out of this British date when its artistic director, Jean-Paul Comelin, suddenly resigned. The Dergate management immediately launched a search for a replacement and came up with the State Tchaikovsky Ballet of Russia, the official name of the Perm troupe. The company's production of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* runs from December 1 to 11 in Northampton.

### DRAWING OF THE DAY

The Royal Academy's exhibition of drawings from the J. Paul Getty Museum, supported by The Times, is now open. Here Richard Cork discusses a masterpiece from the Getty drawings collection. Today: The Meeting of the infant Saint John the Baptist with the Holy Family by Michelangelo (1475-1564).



RECENTLY auctioned for £3.8 million, this long-forgotten work ranks among Michelangelo's supreme drawings. Probably produced in the early 1530s, it is a deeply considered image. While the grazing donkey on the right is faintly outlined, Michelangelo gives the figure of Saint Joseph more substance. Surprisingly old, he leans wearily against a saddle and stares towards his younger wife. Our eyes duly follow his gaze, attracted by the richness with which Michelangelo has elaborated both the Madonna and the two children beside her. We can follow the artist's thought-processes, as the Virgin's head is changed from a frontal pose to a downturned look at the infant Baptist. He leans towards her, ducking underneath the Madonna's arm. And the spontaneity of these movements is continued in the figure of Christ himself. With one foot resting on his mother's breast. Hungry after the journey, his mouth closes eagerly on the proffered nipple. Intimate yet grand, lively as well as awesome, this supple drawing shows Michelangelo at his inventive best.

### TELEVISION REVIEW: A playwright goes backstage in Prague

SOME years ago, the playwright and novelist Michael Frayn wrote and presented two outstanding BBC programmes about the architecture of Berlin and Vienna. Forgivingly, the exact contents now slip one's memory, yet I do remember one thing: his emphasis on "caryatids" — those stone pillars in the form of draped long-suffering women, condemned for eternity to support entablatures by the simple but agonising method of standing still and not moving their heads.

Frayn, one of our most gloriously witty writers, whose benign bespectacled intelligence makes him a superb front-man, is not a chap to pass up a caryatid, to ignore a visual conceit. Never shun a metaphor, those programmes seemed to say, especially when it's responsible for shoring up the buildings.

Arguably, last night's *Omnibus* film about Prague, *Magic Lantern* (BBC1), was too baroque for its own good — Frayn finding so many half-of-mirrors metaphors for this weirdly ungraspable city that the poor added viewer sometimes burst into tears. On the other hand, Frayn did call the piece "Magic Lantern", and more importantly, he never told a story that wasn't fascinating.

The point about Prague, he said, is that it has recently moved. Yes, moved; lock, stock and barrel. Remember how it used to be in Eastern Europe? How Chamberlain described

### Baroque street theatre

it as a "faraway place of which we know nothing"? Now it's just down the road — closer than Rome or Vienna. As a former seat of the Hapsburgs and capital of the Holy Roman Empire, it is now one of the great baroque cities of Europe. What interested Frayn this time was not those pillars on the outsides of the buildings, but the tunnels, arcades and alleyways underneath, that enable the populace to dodge and weave through the place like mice through a wainscot. This was an essay about the hidden, backstage life of a city: about obverses and reverses in its people's history; about alchemy and metamorphosis; about a highly specialised theatrical tradition (the Black Theatre of Prague) that creates illusions through wordless puppets manipulated by unseen blokes in black hoods.

You can understand Frayn's excitement about the puppets: what a great political metaphor for Kafka's city, where helplessness is the main theme of the literature, and where a velvet revolution was achieved by a playwright from behind the scenes. "Everything in Prague," said Frayn, evidently

enjoying himself, "is a bit stranger than you think, and a lot older." If only he would come with you on your holidays. On your own, you could travel to Prague and miss all this.

One of his most pleasing themes was the way the city has been, paradoxically (or magically), preserved through neglect. Why did Prague survive the second world war, while Warsaw was destroyed? Because the Allies defended Warsaw. In Frayn's thesis, negatives have a habit of becoming positives. He drew our attention to a well-known Czech photographer whose pictures of the city were developed but rarely printed — which existed, then, just in eerily secret negative form, where they showed "moonlit stones under black skies".

Concurrently with *Omnibus*, ITV screened the last ever First Tuesday, about a photographer likewise interested in the unseen life of a place — a down-to-earth Devon labourer (down-to-earth, literally, he's a grave-digger) who films inaccessible Exmoor wildlife on video. But alas, if negatives can become positives, this film seemed perversely determined to demonstrate that the opposite is also true. Aside from the amateur footage of deer and fox cubs, *Johnny Kingdom and the Secret of Happiness* was gold turned to base metal, and was almost unbearably banal.

LYNNE TRUSS

### Flailing the philistines

Sir Peter Hall was in characteristically combative form at a Times Talk in the National Theatre

the Royal Opera House, who must spend half his time apologising for high ticket prices and the other half pleading for more subsidy. New on the scene, but already making an impact, is Dennis Marks, recently appointed director of English National Opera.

But Melvyn Bragg, chief patron of the National Campaign for the Arts, is probably the stalwart. Bragg can be relied upon to defend almost every kind of artistic pursuit. At the launch of National Library Week on Monday an impromptu polemic was required — and delivered, without notes.

Qualifications for a good

lobbyist include ability to launch into articulate polemic at the drop of a hat and a certain weighty, but weary, expressiveness in the voice. Sir Peter, once known for his spontaneous jumping onto coffee tables to make a point, is a master. "We have got to stop this nonsense about whether we can afford the arts. The money is a footnote in the defence budget. To double the arts budget would not even cause a hiccup."

"If art for the under-25s was free," he told an audience of largely under-25s, "it would transform our country, transform our future." Lots of applause.

Lady Thatcher once asked one of her several arts ministers: "When can we stop giving money to awful people like Peter Hall?" The compliment is reciprocated. "Sometimes," said Sir Peter, "I think we are a nasty, philistine little country."

ALISON ROBERTS

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS	
Matthias Bamert Conductor	
<p>Queen Elizabeth Hall Tuesday 9 November 7.45 pm</p> <p>TIPPETT Div. Sellinger's Round MOZART Violin Conc. No.3 in G MOZART Posthorn Serenade (Ernst Kovacic Soloist)</p> <p>45-48 Box Office 071-423 8800 Sponsored by G&amp;P Ltd and BBC</p>	<p>Windsor, Windsor Wed 10 November 8.00 pm</p> <p>Pre-concert talk at 6.30 pm</p> <p>SCHUBERT German Dances KROMMER Conc. for 2 clarinets MOZART Posthorn Serenade (Angela Malsbury Michael Collins Soloists)</p> <p>45-48 Box Office 071-423 8800 Sponsored by Royal Bank Ltd</p>



Now.

## LONDON

**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:** A scrupulous musical evening is assured as Yo-Yo Ma performs the UK premiere of Andrew Previn's Cello Concerto No. 1 and the London SSO's new recording. **Barbican, 8pm.**

**RELATIVE VALUES:** Susan Hampshire, Sara Crowe and Alison Fraser head a strong cast in a comedy of snobish but clever comedy. **Tim Loomer directs, first seen at Chichester the summer.**

**THREE JAPANESE WOMEN:** Opening night for the latest production from the award-winning M-Lan Company, a look inside the lives of three women in 1950s Japan. **Barbican, 8pm.**

**TURNER PRIZE:** The annual joint exhibition of shortlisted artists for the Turner Prize begins today, running up to November 28. The artists concerned are the minimalist painter Sean Scully, installation artist Hannah Collins and

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

**Vong Pichay's** and the sculptor Rachel Whiteread. **Tate Gallery, Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2-5pm.**

## ELSEWHERE

**CONVENTRY:** The Newington contemporary jazz sextet Jan Garbarek leads the end of the current UK tour. **Warwick Arts Centre (0203 524524) Tonight, 8pm.**

**EDINBURGH:** A rare opportunity to see the late, great Sir Kenneth MacMillan's last work, the ballet *The Four Seasons*. **Edinburgh Festival Theatre (0131 225 1000) Tonight, 8pm.**

**OXFORD:** A wind portrait of a child's life thrown into turmoil is the basis for

Bernard Kops's *Dreams of Annie*. **Windsor Theatre, Windsor (01753 83000) Today, 10.30am and 2pm. Until Nov 6.**

**BIRMINGHAM:** A meat programme from the Birmingham Royal Ballet. Paul Jones plays the harmonica in Matthew Hurst's *Baroque*, a reflection on the differing moods of a typical day. **The Birmingham Royal Ballet (0121 233 1000) Today, 10.30am and 2pm. Until Nov 6.**

**GLASGOW:** The first appearance since the death of the late, great Sir Kenneth MacMillan of the Scottish Opera's production of *Macbeth*. **Scottish Opera (0141 225 1000) Today, 8pm.**

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

LOOKING THROUGH A GLASS

OWEN: John Waters in his own musical tribute to John Lennon, and comes remarkably close to conveying his mystique. **Lyric Theatre, London (01753 83000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.**

CITY OF ANGELS: Top quality

Larry Green's comedy musical, packed with wit, set in L.A. and the story of the private eye movie. **Lyric Theatre, London (01753 83000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.**

EXACT CHANGE: Kevin McNally,

Mike McKinnon and Steven O'Shea star in David Epstein's comedy concerning New York's Jewish community. **Lyric Theatre, London (01753 83000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.**

HOT STUFF: The glaze and glam of

the Seventies in a compilation musical from Paul Kershaw. **Lyric Theatre, London (01753 83000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.**

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen

Jeffrey's meticulously researched version of Presley's social thriller. **Lyric Theatre, London (01753 83000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.**

JAMAICA VU: Drama from the

National Theatre, the latest of Ken Cargill's amazing one-man entertainments. **Lyric Theatre, London (01753 83000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.**

MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING

(PG). Fast-food Shakespeare from Kenneth Branagh, with rolling actors, clearly spoken verse, but little film. **Lyric Theatre, London (01753 83000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm.**

THE FUGITIVE (12). 1980s

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## DANCE: Two contrasting Juliets make their Royal Ballet debuts; sex and sin at the ICA

## Falling in love for the first time

## Romeo and Juliet

## Covent Garden

AT LEAST ten new Juliets have danced Prokofiev's ballet in London within four months in three productions; the two latest contenders appeared for the Royal Ballet on Saturday. Darcy Russell's debut had been scheduled for the evening; then a matinee was added with Sarah Wildor.

Bussell is at the stage in her career where other companies might want to tempt her away: she bowed over New York City Ballet's audience in *Agnon* at a recent gala; the French loved her dancing but had reservations about her acting. Covent Garden, with its heavy reliance on dramatic ballets, is obviously trying to develop that side of her work.

Her Juliet, with Zoltan Solymosi's hot-blooded Romeo to spark her off, had clearly been prepared with care. In her case, we can take beautiful movement for granted: the expansiveness of gesture, smooth strong extensions, sure turns and balances, quick light jumps. More notable in other roles, we have a twinkle in her eyes, a shy smile on her lips, that made her falling in love especially credible.

So why did I find the younger, less experienced Sarah Wildor's performance more thrilling? Perhaps the best way to describe the difference is to say that whenever Bussell lifted her arms, for instance, it looked the right, proper expression of that moment's emotion; with Wildor the impression was of something compelled, inevitable; that she was living the moment rather than expressing it.

JOHN PERCIVAL



Darcy Russell and Zoltan Solymosi: Bussell's Juliet, with Solymosi's hot-blooded Romeo to spark her off, had been prepared with care

## Missionary positions

## Original Sin

## ICA

edifices of word-choreography that require considerable vocal dexterity.

Brailford, an actress, is a strong, clear-speaking presence. Having specified what about "hunky, chunky, manly, masculine" men makes her swoon, she sings a song as bitter in praise of masturbation; and almost gives as good as she gets in the many verbal skirmishes. But it is Charnock who dishes out the best sweeping assertions and curses — "May your buttocks always sag" — and who defines Brailford through comparisons with himself. She remains nebulous, never quite proving or disproving

his portrayal. Obsessively, he describes what he sees as the yawning chasm between the sexes: "Men give love for sex; women give sex for love." He communicates a bleakly biological vision in which love is only transient desire disguised and foreplay is "ten pins of lager and a chicken vindaloo". Yet he emerges as the most vulnerable figure, whose spasmic contortions, naked on the floor, hover ambiguously between pleasure and pain.

"Shout at the calm, rage at the silence," Brailford had declared early on; and you wonder what a word-filled piece like *Original Sin* is doing in a Dance Umbrella season. But then,

two-thirds in. Charnock, a dancer as well as an actor, launches into a solo of jumps and images obliquely illustrating his accompanying speech.

It is dramatically, though, that he makes the most vivid impact. He is a performer able to give of himself totally and unsparringly, a charismatic comic of lightning mood changes, who builds himself up into frenzies of flapping arms, bobbing white-blond hair and indignation.

His text offers no resolutions. The attitudes expressed remain as confused and contradictory as in real life. His continuing concern with human issues testifies to his previous collaborations with DV8 Physical Theatre. Having delved thoroughly into sex, the most fundamental human issue of all, he needs to move on.

NADINE MEISNER

## THEATRE: An adaptation of Iain Banks's vivid novel captures the body of the work while missing the spirit

## No sting, to be Frank

## The Wasp Factory

## Bagley's Warehouse,

## York Way, London N1

ERIC, the dog-eating psychotic, kept ringing in from phone booths during the performance. Frank, a mere decimator of bunnies — caught in a spotlight and frozen with fear every time his big brother called — was convinced Eric was on his way. I started anxiously anticipating his arrival; bursting in, no doubt, with a savage snarl, and a canine femur between his teeth.

But Eric never showed. Perhaps he had trouble finding Bagley's Warehouse. Perhaps he met his equal en route in the dimly-lit industrial jungle behind King's Cross. The Wasp Factory adapted Iain Banks's novel into a multi-media physical theatre piece that had a certain buzz about it when I saw it. And for the first night crowd, at least, the show went like a house on fire. An incendiary device, detonated on one of the rafters to coincide with Frank blowing up his baby cousin, had

even the stage management team in a state of excitement. While Daniel Olsley (Frank) innocently continued recalling his serial-killing childhood with the infernal Eric ("It was Eric who had invented the flame-thrower"), the beam above was visibly going to blaze. Far from putting a dampener on things, the producer Harvey Kass — who dashed in, turfed a spectator out of a front row seat, and blasted the mini-inferno with clouds of CO<sub>2</sub> — was actually the dramatic acme of the evening. The flame finally extinguished, he exuded to ardent, grateful applause.

This one-off incident apart, Malcolm

Sutherland's production is swish and stylish. Lucy Allen flitters across stage in a gas mask; a curiously inspired imitation of an all-too-briefly lived rabbit. Props zoom on, flown down from the overhead walkway. Televisions on sticks, like high-tech totems, loom above the audience, flashing up bright images in the dark: a forest of green screens succinly suggests the out-of-doors; pulsating radar scans hint that Frank's father, a mad scientist who likes to keep things cut off, has his little island under surveillance.

Sutherland is full of ideas, but how original are sado-masochistic execu-

tioners' masks and Guignol make-up? The avant-garde soon becomes just fashion, and then old hat.

The stage adaptation is neither as disturbing nor funny as it might be, and is crasser than Banks's sophisticatedly cranked original. The book's metaphysical dimension gets amputated. The clowning can be lame. Merely splitting the novel's first person narrative between two, able speakers, the identikit skinheads (Ilsey and Paul Hunter (Frank) 2) does not produce genuine dialogue.

The plot takes a major last minute twist: Frank discovers he has an alter-ego. But somehow it misfires, the surprise feeling more like a soggy squab than a sparkly bolt from the blue. I was left flummoxed, as if I had turned up a blind alley rather than reached the centre of the maze.

KATE BASSETT

## ENTERTAINMENTS

## ART GALLERIES

**SPINK, King Street, St James's, SW1.** 3rd-5th November. John Nash: *THE DELIGHTED EYE*. Mon-Fri, 9.00-5.30. Tues. until 7.30pm.

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## OLGA

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## FORTUNE

**FORTUNE** 0



CINEMA: Geoff Brown marks your card for the London Film Festival; David Robinson on a revived Chaplin classic

# Now, heaven knows, anything goes

The first film to sell out in the 37th London Film Festival was the obvious one: *Short Cuts*. Robert Altman's engrossing bumper bundle of Raymond Carver stories, due for commercial release in Britain next spring. But the British Film Institute's annual bonanza, based at the Waterloo Bridge, is big and diverse enough to satisfy the most esoteric tastes as well.

Merchant Ivory's *The Remains of the Day*, beautifully mounted but somewhat chilly, launches the festival tomorrow night with impeccable good manners. After that, *The Premonition of Absurd Personae* in Sexual Prisoner Part I, a film by John Maybury, leading light among Britain's experimentalists, you can (November 17). If you crave the absurdities of *Maciste* *Al Inferno*, a silent Italian fantasy featuring incredible special effects and biceps, crave no more (November 12).

Sixteen new British features have been rounded up: impressive in theory

If you like the idea of stings of spaghetti descending from ceilings to engulf half the cast, rd up for Abel Ferrara's *Bdysnatchers* (November 18). More delicate palates will probably relish the Taviani brothers' *pleasure in Floride* (November 13). *Abraham Valley*, Manoel de Oliveira's elegant variation on *Madame Bovary* (November 19), or *Manhattan By Numbers* (November 11).

An uneven but striking American debut by the Iranian émigré Amir Naderi. The festival hands may note a few changes. The funding crunch has reduced the Children's London Film Festival, once a separate entity, to six weekend programmes within the main schedule. The programme also confirms a general trend in film festivals worldwide. A decade ago, most festivals were still heavily populated by the established names of European cinema. Death, inactivity and mixed artistic fortunes have changed the landscape: the most interesting films now tend to come from young bright sparks in far-flung places, or the American independent sector.

The current LFF boasts new work by Alain Tanner, Lindsay Anderson, Makavejev and von Trotta, among others; but while *Gorilla Batches* at Noon (Novem-

ber 16), for instance, shows a welcome return to Makavejev's collage techniques and early anarchy, these are not films to set the world talking. Bertrand Blier, at least, keeps his end up: *1, 2, 3, Sun* (November 17), a crazy quilt of life in Marseilles housing blocks, is as bawling and snook-cocking a feast as the director's fans could wish.

Among new film-makers making their bow, Tran Anh Hung should win friends with his *Seed of Green Papaya* (November 6), a ravishing French-Vietnamese production, one of the discoveries at Cannes this year. The story tells of a peasant girl working as a servant in Saigon in the 1950s and 1960s: the images

labyrinthine rooms, rich in ornaments, creeping lizards, and mouth-watering food. The film may be a touch bloodless, aimed at the art-house ghetto, but the artistry of the set designs take the breath away.

Other people's breath may be stopped by *Desperate Remedies* (November 13), a camp Victorian melodrama from New Zealand film-makers Stewart Main and Peter Wells, featuring lesbian lovers, opium addiction and costumes bright enough to cause sunstroke. For a time, the film succeeds as a brazen stylistic exercise, but there is too much posing, too much artifice, to sustain the length of a full feature.

The festival also welcomes the quieter kind of film that provides an absorbing 90 minutes but lacks that extra visual dimension that could guarantee commercial distribution. Ning Ying's *For Pua* (November 7), for instance, is too modest a piece to escape far from the festival circuit. Yet here is a delightful Chinese comedy (from a young woman director), brimming with human quirks.

The crabby hero is a retired Peking Opera stagehand, who joins up with fellow old-timers to form an amateur troupe. Jealous bickering erupts in rehearsals, although the film itself is always good-natured.

There seems equally little chance of Thomas Mitterlich's *Just A Matter of Duty* (November 10) spreading its wings. At first a cramped, TV-movie feeling hangs over this story of a German woman arrested after Hitler's defeat for informing on Carl Goerdeler, a past mayor of Leipzig who led the



Featuring lesbianism, drug-taking and the likes of Jennifer Ward-Lealand, *Desperate Remedies* is a Victorian melodrama that promises much, but somehow fails to deliver

1944 plot against the Führer. But once flashbacks return to the scene of her "crime", the film blossoms, probing motives with wry humour and casting a quizzical eye on Germany's burden of guilt.

Mitterlich, experienced in documentary, vividly recreates this curious corner of the past, and Katharina Thalbach is thoroughly convincing as the naive heroine.

Another German film, Wolfgang Becker's *Child's Play* (November 9), grabs the attention with its unsparring focus on a family at war with itself, and the cruel games children play. It should best be seen in conjunction with Ildikó Szabó's excellent *Child Murders* (November 18), a more poetic but equally

tragic tale of delinquency and urban deprivation. Watching these films, you wonder how anyone ever survives into adulthood intact.

Sixteen new British features have been rounded up: in theory an impressive total for the country's precarious industry, although four last less than an hour, and none, apart from *The Remains of the Day*, seems likely to make head-

lines. Stephen Polakoff's ambitious *Century* (November 13), his first film since *Close My Eyes*, intrigues but fails to satisfy with its artful portrait of medical researchers facing moral questions in the 20th century's dawn. Leslie Megahey's *The Hour of the Pig* (November 14), an ebullient comedy

about sex, intolerance and legal absurdities set in medieval France, would provide good entertainment as a BBC2 special, but fits oddly on the big screen; while young Chris Jones's serial killer thriller *White Angel* (November 15), given the prestigious "Centrepiece" slot, takes a laborious peek behind our suburban facade.

As usual, the festival is rich in documentaries, one of cinema's most neglected, yet rewarding, seams. You can find out about Antonin Artaud, Pearl Buck, the twist, Allen Ginsberg and, among cinema folk, Jack L. Warner, Rossellini and Truffaut. Adriano Aprà's hour-long *Rossellini Sea* (November 7) is too

cryptic by far, but François Truffaut, *Stolen Portraits* (also November 7), by Serge Toubiana and Michel Pascal, strikes a happier balance between clips and commentary.

Few documentaries, however, could match *The Life and Times of Allen Ginsberg* (November 13) for breadth of material and joie de vivre. Jerry Aronson's cheering portrait of the poet, icon and activist guides us through the rough and tumble of Ginsberg's life: an anguished childhood, frenzied years among beatniks, junkies and dreamers, a mellow old age.

Battle-scarred but ebullient, Ginsberg is clearly a born survivor, and when the film is done, you

want to rush up to the screen and hug him.

One final point. Go to the National Film Theatre on most nights and you see many empty seats, except for the obvious mainstream attractions. Go during two and a half weeks in November — damp, cold, dark by five — and the glossy tomb under Waterloo Bridge swarms with festival-goers curious and eager to see the full range of world cinema. Where are these enlightened souls the rest of the year?

● The London Film Festival runs from tomorrow to November 21 at the National Film Theatre, South Bank, SE1, and other venues (box office: 071 928-3232)



Charlie Chaplin and Mack Swain in *The Gold Rush*, the little tramp's biggest silent hit

## One he made earlier

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic announced its presentation of *The Gold Rush* last weekend as the "world premiere". This might have surprised Charles Chaplin, the film's producer, director and star, who had every reason to suppose that this event took place on June 26, 1925 at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. What we were seeing was, in fact, a restoration of the original version, unseen for more than 60 years, accompanied by the RLPO's live performance of the musical score composed by Chaplin in 1924, or a "modernised" reissue of his biggest silent comedy hit, besides adding the musical soundtrack, he replaced the original intertitles with a spoken commentary, and shortened the film slightly, so that it could be accommodated in the double bills then customary. Unfortunately Chaplin cut up his original negative to make the 1942 version, and the task of tracing the missing minutes has so far entailed our years' searching by David Gill of Photoplay Productions and through film archives and private collections worldwide. Although the sections now

How could a film everyone knows enjoy its world premiere last weekend?

replaced often consist of no more than a shot or two, they restore a narrative flow and psychological subtlety that Chaplin sacrificed in the 1942 version. The changes principally involve the yearning of the destitute little Klondike prospector (Chaplin) for the beautiful dance hall girl (Georgia Hale) and the girl's relationship with her brutish lover, which in this version become altogether more convincing.

The RLPO performances were conducted by Carl Davis, who has adapted Chaplin's 1942 musical accompaniment to fit the longer, restored version. Chaplin, a self-taught musician, had a remarkable melodic gift, was born early enough to have absorbed the techniques of 19th-century theatre music. *The Gold Rush* score is indeed a fascinating

survival of the kind of melodrama accompaniment that might have been heard in the 1890s, skilfully establishing the emotional moods and heightening the dramatic and comic passages.

The RLPO's sparky performance beautifully matched the comedy and justified Chaplin's declaration that this was the film by which he wished to be remembered. The climactic scene, with Chaplin and his prospector partner desperately trying to escape from a storm-wracked hut that is see-sawing on the edge of a precipice, remains a marvel of timing and comic escalation.

The uninhibited enthusiasm of the Liverpool response was a reminder that in 1925 the BBC made a sensation with a pioneer outside broadcast from the Tivoli theatre, enabling listeners to hear the laughter of the audience watching the silent *Gold Rush*.

Davis and the RLPO were to have repeated the performance at the Albert Hall on Saturday, but the event was cancelled through lack of support.

DAVID ROBINSON

Robert Olen Butler won a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction by writing what he thought he wrote worst

## Nothing succeeds like failure

Since being awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction this summer, Robert Olen Butler has become literature's best-known unknown writer. Over the past 12 years the St Louis-born former editor of *Energy User News*, now a creative writing teacher at McNeese State University in Louisiana, has published six novels, all of them virtually ignored by the reading public.

Butler has seen his life turned upside-down by the prize, awarded for *A Good Scent From A Strange Mountain*, his collection of short stories about Vietnamese-Americans in Louisiana. He has criss-crossed America doing readings and talk shows. He flew into London with the ink scarcely dry on a contract to write the screenplay for the Oliver Stone-produced, Wayne Wang-directed film of his stories.

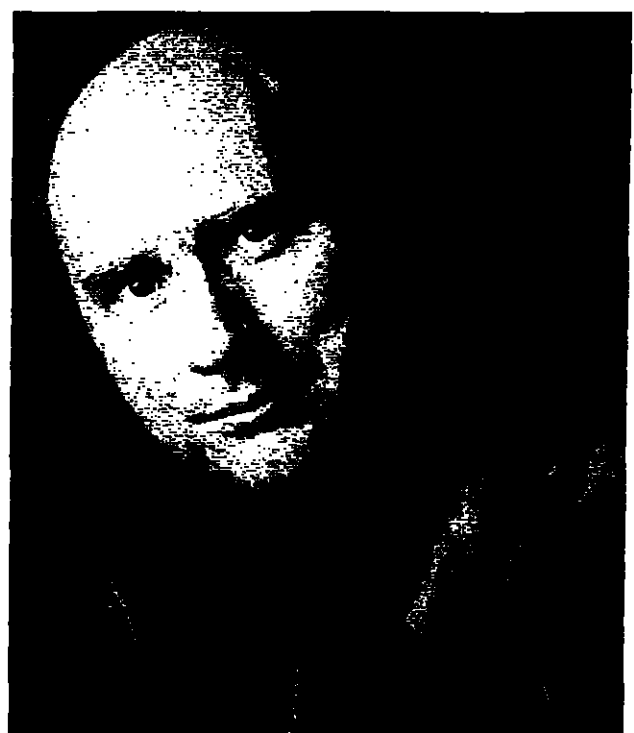
Butler is a bald, youthful 48, nattily dressed in fashionable jacket and tie, with an enthusiasm for talking about his work undimmed by jet-lag, the fact that this must be his 150th

interview, or his impatience to visit London dealers to add to his collection of cigarette cards. "I've been enjoying myself tremendously," he says. "The wonderful thing about the Pulitzer is that the monkey is off my back — I don't need to prove myself ever again — and people are listening to me."

The son of a lecturer in theatre at St Louis university, Butler was called up into the American forces in 1970 and, after a year spent learning Vietnamese, was shipped to Saigon to work as an intelligence officer. He came back from the war determined to be a fiction writer.

"The irony of this prize is that I had convinced myself I was a terrible short-story writer. When, after Vietnam, I was teaching myself to write in New York, I wrote three or four dozen short stories and all but one were dreadful. I decided that my vision of the world as an artist really fitted the novel."

He wrote six unpublished novels before he got *The Allies*



After years of trying, Robert Olen Butler has a best-seller

of *Eden* published in 1981 — after it was rejected 21 times in three years. For the next five years, Butler wrote en route to his day job in journalism. "Every word of my first four published novels was written

on legal pads, by hand, on the Long Island railroad as I commuted to my job in Manhattan. I couldn't write at home. I was in a dreadful marriage but trying to stay in it because of my son."

At the age of 40, he was able to get his teaching job in Louisiana. He got custody of his son and began a new life. "It took me months to be able to write in a room that wasn't moving," he says.

*A Good Scent From A Strange Mountain* came out of a request for a short story for a radio series. "As I was wallowing in some considerable obscurity I could only say yes. I sat down one Sunday afternoon and heard the voice of a Vietnamese father coming to terms with the Americanisation of his son. Six hours later I had a story. Over the next year I wrote the others as a suite of voices."

Butler is going to Vietnam in December to research his next book. Even so, he dislikes being called a "Vietnam writer". "It's like calling Monet a lily-pod painter," he says. "As an artist I write from the artistic impulse — the chaos out there has some order to it and I've got to tell stories to express what that order is. Vietnam is the occasional subject-matter that I use as a way into the deeper patterns of life."

PETER GUTTRIDGE  
● *A Good Scent From A Strange Mountain* is published by Minerva (£5.99)

CONCERT: A rare visit well worth waiting for

## Ozawa, happy and glorious

Vienna PO/Ozawa Festival Hall

(particularly from the superbly idiosyncratic woodwinds) were treated with admirable freedom; yet the momentum was thrillingly maintained. Equally, there was a magnificent sense of rhythmic thrust; yet space, too, for the most delicate of textures to breathe and to allure.

From an orchestra which has not been immune to autopilot gliding in the past, there were encouraging signs from the start. A cynic would point to at least one strong incentive for that: this was a royal gala to launch *The Friends of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra* in the United Kingdom, which will presumably devote

its energies to cash-raising on the stupendous scale needed to ensure that the VPO continues to make its thrice-yearly appearances here.

Perhaps that did spur the playing on. But to hear one of Haydn's more bizarre symphonies given such a polished reading was almost worth a £30 ticket by itself. (Thus writes a man with a free ticket.) The symphony was No 60, nicknamed "Il Distratto", and full of weird cul-de-sacs in which mock-religious counter-

points are messed up by rustic folk-tunes.

A brilliantly delineated performance of Bartók's *Miraculous Mandarin* suite followed. The early scene-setting was evocative but never allowed to topple into caricature; this restraint made all the more electrifying the moment when Ozawa cut the orchestra loose for the blood-curdling charge to the final curtain.

Scarcely less gripping was Dvorák's "New World" Symphony. All orchestral musicians could play this piece in their sleep. Some probably do. Here it sounded as if the ink was still drying on the pages and the players were discover-

ing its great-hearted glory for the first time.

If one movement stood out, it was the scherzo, in which the woodwind trills had a touch of velvet, and each new tune was eased in with guileful grace. There was more of that, and the odd wink in the direction of schmalz as well, in the Strauss encore *Vienna Blood* never seemed a more desirable musical qualification.

RICHARD MORRISON

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# Temping and training brush away the rust

Are you worried about returning to work after a career break? Have you forgotten your skills? What about all the new equipment and the mysterious "Windows", "Microsoft", "DTP" and "Spreadsheets" referred to in advertisements? Does anyone use shorthand anymore? Since you have been out of the office scene for years, will you fit in socially? Will you be the oldest there and can you cope?

Sounds familiar? These are very real fears. Speeds may be rusty. Office equipment has changed. Re-training is the key to coping with these problems. The personal confidence may take longer - and it is only after forcing yourself towards that first job, even if it is only a few days temping, that this grows.

Should you approach a recruitment agency or would you be wasting everyone's time? "Not at all," says Julia Stones, of Crone Corkill. "Counselling is an important part of our work - and something that I personally enjoy." She agrees that temping can be a good way of easing yourself back in: "It can be a re-education, letting you see how companies have changed, and can give you a view of

Agencies are always ready to offer a helping hand, and sometimes even free refresher courses, Beryl Dixon writes

different industries so you can see where you would like to work." What advice would she give the prospective returner? "It would depend on a person's skills and the level at which they were hoping to re-enter. Shorthand is still demanded in top jobs, so I would suggest a refresher course to a former PA. Most people will need to learn word processing packages and, in particular, gain experience of Windows. But they should ask someone in the know which packages are most in demand."

Should you decide to take the plunge, how can you re-train and how much will it cost? The answer depends on the level you require, the size of your purse and where you live. You could spend a few hundred pounds or nothing at all. Most private secretarial colleges offer packages for returners. You could buy a course of 20 hours' keyboarding, shorthand refresher lessons charged at an hourly rate,

and word processing courses of between one and three days. Fees usually include help with job hunting.

Gina Lowes, of St James Secretarial College, in southwest London, finds that the most useful request is for information technology training, followed by keyboarding. St James has several modular packages, enabling students to pick and mix according to need. Included are courses on time management, assertiveness, CV writing and interview technique.

Sometimes you need look no further than your nearest further education college. Many offer "drop-in" facilities and shorthand workshops where you can work at your own speed with help from tutors. You may be able to buy packages by the hour or by groups of modules. Gone are the days when courses started only in September.

Janet Whalley, at South Thames College, in Wandsworth, south London, has over a hundred returners in her department at any time. "Some are on dedicated 12 or 36-week courses; others are here under tailor-made arrangements, taking units from different courses," she said. South Thames runs courses from 10am to 3pm when possible and has childcare facilities. Fees in state colleges vary. You may claim tax relief and if the college has funding from a Training and Enterprise Council or the European Social Fund, courses will be subsidised or even free.

If you live near a leading high street agency you may find some re-training is offered free. Most offer some type of word processor training and typing refresher courses. Kelly Services had a major promotion in September/October, aimed specifically at "back to work mums". That promotion has ended, but the offer of training has not. Large branches have always offered this facility, so it is worth enquiring.

Incidentally do not worry about age. Crone Corkill's oldest temp is 63 and some of Janet Whalley's students are in their fifties.



Janie Tate found she lacked confidence and had forgotten how to handle people on the telephone

## Caught out by computers

Janie Tate is easing her way back into work through part-time jobs, writes Beryl Dixon. PA to a marketing director. When I found that my boss had coincided with the computer revolution. Everything had changed! Mrs Tate found a part-time job at a house in Sussex, newly in use for corporate entertainment.

Before her first day back at work she was sick with nerves: "I was worried about my lack of skills. It's pathetic the way your confidence goes. But you have been in such a different environment, surrounded by nappies and baby talk. You think 'Am I going to appear stupid?' Six months ago, Mrs Tate found another job through a friend. "She owned a travel agency and needed

someone to help out on occasional days, doing administration and answering her phone. That did wonders for my confidence. It's amazing how you even forget how to deal with people on the phone." Now she has a job with a company that organises corporate parties. "I do a great deal of telephone work, and I'm learning to use Microsoft. I am gradually creating a niche for myself."

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## TIDY BRITAIN

Everybody can play a significant part in cutting an annual litter bill of £250m, reports Bill Cater



**T** costs £250 million a year to clean the streets of Britain. You and I pay that because we drop the litter — or rather, we all pay because some of us drop the litter," Professor Graham Ashworth says. "We get the environment we deserve — or rather we get the environment that some of us deserve and we all have to ask what we are prepared, as individuals, to do about it."

The job of Professor Ashworth as director general of the Tidy Britain Group is to persuade that "some of us" to behave and all of us to get organised for a tidier scene. He has led the Tidy Britain Group since 1987. Before that he was a full-time academic at Salford University; today he occupies a research chair there. "My background is architecture, town planning and environmental health," he says.

The Tidy Britain Group is one of those very British institutions based on sensible compromise. It is a registered charity, although it also has a trading arm raising money for its good cause. It was begun by amateurs.

The start of the drive for a tidier Britain came in 1954 when a resolution expressing concern about litter was passed at the annual conference of the Women's Institute. Others had called for action against litter before, but the WIs made themselves heard, and eventually, Keep Britain Tidy was launched with charitable support and a borrowed office.

A few industrialists made small subscriptions; by 1969 the government was making an annual grant of £14,000, and two years later came the Litter Act. By 1978, the government grant had crept up to £25,000 and the group's first environmental surveys and schools projects were beginning to make it



Tidy Britain Group volunteers tackle river pollution as part of the long-term People and Places campaign, which aims to eradicate squalor

## A small matter of public hygiene

more widely known; in 1982 the group's Beautiful Britain Year was launched by the Queen Mother.

In 1987, Professor Ashworth was brought in to reshape the organisation. He established surveys into litter on Britain's high streets, litter in major commercial areas, local council street cleaning, the management of tourist areas and the problems of litter at events such as football matches. The potential for disaster was horrifyingly illustrated all too soon by the Bradford football ground fire disaster, which was linked to the accumulation of litter in a stand.

Today the group, renamed Tidy

Britain — some parts of the realm cannot be kept tidy until they have been made tidy — has a staff of over 100 split between its headquarters in Wigan and 12 national and regional offices, and an income of more than £3 million from government grants. Other donations add another £1.5 million, says Professor Ashworth, "and then we get a lot more support as benefits in kind; materials and services which come to another £4 million".

He says: "We are a dynamic, professionally run organisation seeking through education, campaigning and action to get the British nation as a whole to do

something about improving the quality of its environment locally — we're not into ozone layers or things of that kind."

"We've now established a system where we can acquire hard information about the cleanliness of Britain. I'm very anxious that we should not indulge in scaremongering or make statements on the basis of inadequate data."

"So we are presently doing a survey of 10 per cent of local authorities every year — that's 47 — checking the cleanliness of their streets. There are now standards of cleanliness established in the Environmental Protection Act: stan-

dards we devised and presented to the government."

"This year we are also going to survey 53 cities of the United Kingdom and produce a table showing which is the cleanest, or perhaps saying which are in the cleanest bands."

Professor Ashworth contributes personally to the campaign. "I may not be prepared to go up to a guy who has just thrown something out of his window and remonstrate with him — though a lot of people do — because I might get a black eye. But I am prepared to go and pick it up and put it in the bin. Every day I'll pick up one piece of litter I haven't dropped and put it in the bin."

"If everybody were to do that and were seen to do it, the problem of litter would disappear."

● The names of the winners of the Tidy Britain environmental awards will be announced today at a London ceremony. Trophies will be presented by the Duchess of Kent in place of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother who is unable to attend because of a cold.

## Giving children an enthusiastic start

**P**ressure from pupils to have recycled lavatory paper prompted City of London School for Girls to set up a "recycling committee", the forerunner of the school's conservation group pledged to look at environmental issues in general.

"It stopped me in my tracks," said Lady France, headmistress of the Barbican-based school, which celebrates its centenary next year. "I thought 'They're absolutely right'." Four years later, Valerie France finds herself at the forefront of Tidy Britain Group's (TGB) high profile involvement in educating children. She has been asked to conduct a review and expects to report back early in the new year.

Since 1973, the group has funded a schools research project, now based at Brighton University. Environmental teaching packs produced by the unit have attracted widespread acclaim among teachers.

Lady France says: "Producing more videos, for example, might be worth exploring. And, as children use computers, this could be a familiar means of communicating the environmental message. We have got to be careful not to preach only to the converted. We have got to reach children of all cultures and backgrounds and convince them that protecting the environment and keeping it litter-free is essential to enhancing the quality of life."

In turn, the Schools Research Project is conducting a survey of 400 primary and secondary schools to investigate teachers' reactions to the education materials produced by the group.

Lady France says that there is a danger that conservation projects, such as wildlife areas, tend to be put in compartments, something apart from the "real world".

She says: "We have got to educate children to be less messy and explain why. Conservation is not just cosmetic, it affects real life. Involving Scouts, Guides and other youth organisations is a good idea. It is a means of getting to

children through a wider association of people and places, not just school."

Lady France believes that the earlier children start learning about the environment, the better. It is best to try to teach them when they are at their "encyclopaedic stage" with a thirst for knowledge and before examination worries intrude. The spin-off would be that, as they grew up, conservation would be second-nature and in turn they would educate their children about the importance of preserving the planet.

As head of a school of 650 pupils aged seven to 18, committed, of their own volition, to playing an active role in conservation, Lady France knows only too well the difficulties that schools might have to contend with.

At the beginning of the school's recycling campaign, which coincided with the bottom falling out of the market for waste paper, finding someone to take away materials for recycling proved difficult. However, since the City of London School for Girls has close links to the Corporation of London, it has been able to use its facilities for waste disposal. In addition, pupils have been able to meet officers concerned with the environment outside school.

Lady France said that recruiting children to be environmentally aware had to be charged with enjoyment and enthusiasm rather than being a chore. "We feel immensely privileged and are taking care that the things we value are not whittled away," she said.

Schools all over Europe are being encouraged to examine their environmental friendliness. Denmark and France already have "Eco Schools" under way and the TGB's Schools Research Project is piloting the concept in schools in Sussex, Kent, Scotland and North Wales for a launch in 1994. The group is seeking a sponsor to match contributions committed by the European Community.

IRENE FARNSWORTH



Lady France committed

# LITTER. WE AREN'T GOING TO LET THE SUBJECT DROP.

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prevent future littering, as well as to clean up the mess which already despoils our cities, towns and countryside. And, of course, we will remain committed to these and other projects until litter is a thing of the past.

But unfortunately we cannot solve the entire problem single-handed. Which is why we are so grateful to individuals and organisations like those listed below for their unwavering support — and why

we are so eager to hear from anyone else who is willing to come forward and help us achieve our goals.

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## Trained in the business of keeping litter off the streets

Councils are learning how to push back the tide of dirt



Barbara Sinker: helping to teach managers in the tidy-up trade

**T**idy Britain's Barbara Sinker was once a teacher. Now she is an expert on conducting surveys into how and where Britons drop litter, and how to help councils clean up after us.

"I went into personnel management with British Telecom; then I took some time at home, then I put my name on the Professional Register and, about ten years ago, got a part-time job three days a week with this group," she says.

Today Mrs Sinker has a full-time job as senior executive director supervising the group's surveys, developing its People and Places programme which helps train managers in the tidiness business, and keeping an eye on the group's 12 regions.

And there's one thing to be said for litter: nobody likes it but everyone is interested. "When I tell people what my job is there's always an 'oh, tell me about it' reaction," she says.

To survey the litter problem, a

way had first to be found to measure it. Pictures, the group decided, speak louder than words, so the four litter grades of the 1990 Environmental Protection Act — litter-free A, not much litter B, quite a lot C, and badly littered D (which looks like the aftermath of a street market) — are defined by photographs.

"It's something everyone can understand: a man sweeping the streets has to know what he's trying to achieve and when he has done so," Mrs Sinker says. "Once a year we survey roughly 10 per cent of local authorities, more than 12,000 sites. We survey areas in 50-metre lengths. If we put them together they would stretch from Bristol to Edinburgh."

The survey looks for more than dropped litter; it also checks on graffiti and dog-fouling. Littered,

dirty streets are more likely to suffer from graffiti and other vandalism. The surveys cover a cross-section of Britain — rural, urban, metropolitan, poor and wealthy. By returning to areas after a year, the group enables councils to see if the environment is getting better, or deteriorating.

"A couple of years ago we also did surveys of six European capital cities: in about four weeks we are due to do them again plus three more — Amsterdam, Athens and Berlin," Mrs Sinker says.

It is one thing to see how well British towns and villages are beating back the tide of litter; something more difficult is to help them do better. That is the purpose of the People and Places programme. "It is unique —

partnership in a management programme for the quality of the

environment," she says. "It is usually led by the local authority, although organisations such as British Rail and British Waterways are in the programmes and we want to extend them to commercial and industrial concerns which we think would benefit most."

"It is a contract with the group: the authority pays a fee and in return they get their managers trained by us and 200 hours of advisory service a year. We look at the size, cost and nature of their litter problem and what needs to be done; it involves a waste management review, recycling, and an action plan."

"Some things may be quick and easy — more sweeping, more bins, changing from a mechanical sweeper to brushes because that gives better results, or it could

need spending in phases — it might be changing the landscaping."

Although the group has ways of compelling slack local councils and other people to clean up litter, it believes in a friendly approach wherever possible.

One example of the softly-softly approach was with the waste-carriers of Thurrock, in Essex. Much of London's waste is carried there by lorries. But when they were unloaded they were not entirely emptied, so on the return journey one road became a tremendous mess.

"We got the police to stop the lorries, and persuaded them to accept a voluntary code for keeping the place clean," Mrs Sinker says. "It has been a tremendous success: the local council used to have to clean that stretch of road twice a day and now it does it only once a week."

BILL CATER

## Britain is blooming all over

Flower contest improves deprived areas and fosters local spirit, says Irene Farnsworth

**A** proliferation of bulbs, trees, and floral displays planned throughout the land is contributing to Britain growing more beautiful. With highways and byways awash with daffodils in the spring and towns and villages burgeoning with colourful hanging baskets and themed gardens in the summer, Britain is indeed blooming.

As the annual Britain in Bloom competition approaches its thirtieth anniversary next year, its chairman, Ashley Stephenson, former bailiff of the royal parks, believes there is much in which to rejoice.

"I think we should be giving ourselves a pat on the back," he says. "The impetus to beautify our surroundings is stronger and changes are taking place more quickly. That is what I see as the great benefit of this competition. So many places are improving their area."

The concept of Britain in Bloom, now run by the Tidy Britain Group, is to encourage communities in cities, towns and villages to enhance their own environment by planting flowers and trees, keeping down litter and graffiti and making general improvements.

Started in a small way to help promote tourism, the Britain in Bloom competition was the idea of *The Times* gardening correspondent of the day, Roy Hay. Mr Stephenson, who was *The Times* gardening correspondent in the 1980s, became involved as a judge in London in the early days of the competition. He worked in the

royal parks for 37 years and until his retirement three years ago had been bailiff for 11 years. He met most members of the royal family, many of whom are keen gardeners, and has worked closely with the Prince of Wales.

Britain in Bloom has nine specific classes, based on population bands, plus special award categories. Mr Stephenson says that the competition is a bonus and not the main reason why communities are improving their environment.

"We think that community members should be doing it because they live there, but we have introduced a number of special awards as an incentive. To encour-

age areas of urban deprivation, for example, we have had an inner-city class in recent years."

Final judging takes place during the last week in August and the first week in September, finalists having been selected in 17 regional competitions in Britain earlier in the summer. But it is not until the presentation of awards ceremony in October that winners are announced.

This year's winners included Birmingham, large city award, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria, small country town award, and Beddgelert, Gwynedd, small village award.

Mr Stephenson says that judges

have noticed that more thought is being given to choosing plants which harmonise with surrounding buildings and features. Co-ordinated colour schemes instead of huge beds of mixed plants are making displays so much better.

Mr Stephenson and his wife, Isabel, who is chairman of the Seaford in Bloom Committee in East Sussex, both grew up in villages in Northumberland. Mr Stephenson learnt gardening from his father.

"He was an enthusiastic gardener and I suddenly found that gardening with him wasn't a chore. I started work as a gardener in Newcastle upon Tyne parks department and after working in a private garden, commercial nursery and in landscaping took up a studentship at Wisley. From there, I went into the royal parks waiting, I thought, until I found something better. I ended up staying there 37 years and, as bailiff, had the best gardening job in the country."

Prince Charles, Mr Stephenson says, is a keen gardener, as is the Queen. The Queen Mother, whose love of flowers is well known, is patron of the London Children's Flower Society and has accompanied Mr Stephenson on classroom visits.

Close to his heart, and regarded as a major part of the Britain in Bloom competition because it introduces the scheme at school, is a children's painting competition. Winning pictures from this year will be used in a 1995 calendar.



Ashley Stephenson, Britain in Bloom chairman, says: "The impetus to beautify areas is strong"



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# Highland spring clean

Scotland is expecting a huge influx of visitors for the bicentenary of Robert Burns's death in 1996. Keep Scotland Beautiful, Tidy Britain's Scottish partner, has already made plans to ensure that the banks and braes so often celebrated in song are worthy of the immortal memory.

Rotary clubs throughout Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire are co-ordinating a drive to clear refuse and dumped material from the banks of the Clyde and the other rivers and streams mentioned in Burns's poetry. Volunteers will plant areas that will reach maturity in three years.

Keep Scotland Beautiful has already created waves this year by the survey it conducted at the height of the tourist season in the Loch Lomond regional park, one of Britain's top attractions. It found that cleaning services provided by local authorities for lay-bys, picnic areas and car parks were "just not good enough".

The visitors were responsible for almost all of the litter, the larger part of which was food and drink packaging. The cleanliness of the whole park area was assessed at 64

per cent, against the high 90s registered for Disneyland and Alton Towers. The survey coincided with Tidy Travel Week, in which motorists were urged to take their rubbish home.

Research consistently shows that it is sites such as parks, car parks and sports areas that have a lower standard of cleanliness, than streets. This appears to be true of the beaches. Scotland has 6,000 miles of coastline, yet of the 132 beaches receiving national awards this year, only eight were Scottish and none won a premier award.

On the credit side, Scotland can take encouragement from the results of this year's national cleanliness standards survey, which rates its towns and cities significantly higher than their counterparts elsewhere. There is a 13 per cent improvement over last year.

Douglas Wright, Keep Scotland Beautiful director, who is based in Dunblane, Perthshire, says: "It is a matter of concern to us that there has been a diminution of com-

plaints to our office. It annoys us in a way because Scotland is not nearly clean enough.

"For instance, I was out walking the other day and saw the most beautiful stag. While I was taking out my camera I noticed a smashed bottle on the ground. The contrast could not have been more striking. A forestry management group had been at work in the area and where they had parked, they left their lunch debris behind. It's inexcusable and makes a mockery of the Countryside Code.

"It's down to management. When the Pope came to Scotland we were concerned at the possible litter problems with the huge crowds expected at the open-air masses. I asked the Roman Catholic authorities if they could help. They broadcast appeals to everyone to bag their litter and pass it along the rows to the stewards. It was a wonderful example."

Aberdeen has been named Britain's Cleanest City by the British Cleaning Council, and Keep Scot-

land Beautiful has introduced a system of assessing the performance of authorities. It is no secret that Perth is high in the ratings.

Four years ago, a television team caused a local furore when it steamed out of town complaining that it could not set up its cameras without being fouled by dog mess. One response was the creation of a Pride in Perth committee to promote public awareness and involvement in a clean-up campaign. This year, in spite of last winter's flooding, Perth was named winner of the Bank of Scotland's Beautiful Scotland in Bloom award for "floral impact and cleanliness".

At the other end of the scale is the persistent problem of discarded toxic chemicals in ditches and careless dumping of rubbish in the countryside. Mr Wright has an answer: "In the country, very often a personal approach can have a strong influence. I call it the embarrassment factor."

"We once had a problem about dumping on a river bank opposite a row of cottages. We sent a letter to all the cottagers asking if they could help us in identifying the culprits. We never heard from any of them, but the dumping stopped."



Douglas Wright, of Keep Scotland Beautiful, with the Fair Maid of Perth, one of the city's statues

## Friendly firms

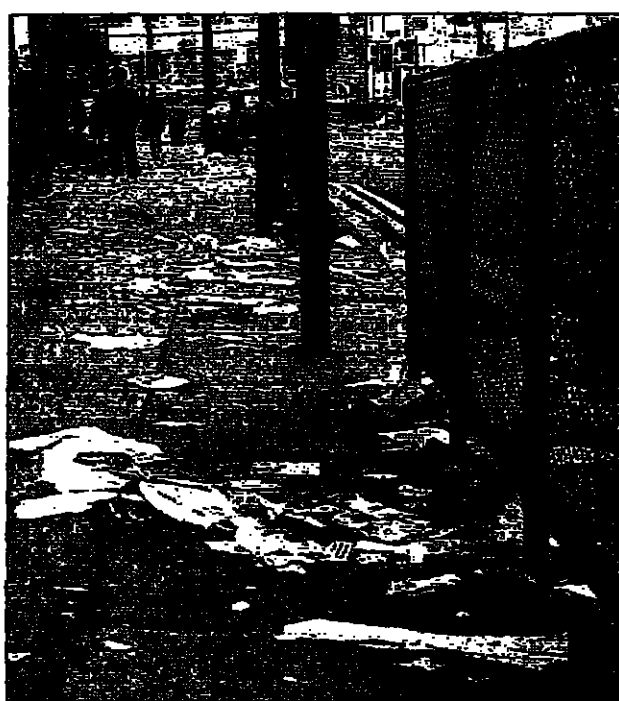
Industry is seen as a partner to be put to work, and not as an enemy

HALF the income of Tidy Britain comes in the form of gifts of goods and services from business. Bill Cater writes. Unlike some environmental groups, it sees industry as a friend to be put to work rather than as a foe.

Its People and Places scheme for training managers in efficient care for the environment is backed by Coca-Cola, which provides management courses and publicity material worth £750 for each manager taking the course. The restaurant chain McDonald's has helped in the Bin It for Britain campaign and MRS Environmental Services backed the expensive Euro-

pean litter surveys. The group's list of contributors and supporters includes 200 organisations. Ten made gifts of £25,000 or more. Such companies, the group believes, can be vital if it is to attain its target of a clean Britain by the year 2000.

The group's director general, Graham Ashworth, said Coca-Cola not only provided resources but also communicated ideas. "We shall be talking to companies as we develop this partnership idea," he said. He believes the message for business and industry is that cutting litter cuts costs and saving waste means saving money.



A street awash with litter dropped by thoughtless people

## Brush up or face a stiff fine

Now you can use the law to make councils clean up dirty towns

THE Environmental Protection Act, the law that brings litter and litter droppers under control, was passed in 1990. But when the Tidy Britain Group first asked for legislation to help clean up the country, it was told that there would not be parliamentary time for it.

Then, green issues — the greenhouse effect, waste disposal problems, the ozone layer — became news. Margaret Thatcher spoke warmly about greening. Suddenly word came back from Whitehall. We are going to have an environmental act — what do you want?

What the group got was part four of the act which declares that various organisations are responsible for keeping public places clear of litter and refuse. These bodies are mainly local authorities, but British Rail, government departments, and most schools, colleges and universities are also legally bound to keep places cleaned at intervals, according to the area's state of cleanliness.

A town centre that reaches the worst litter standard must be brought up to scratch within an hour; an almost-clean town centre within six hours; low density residential areas must be brought from worst free-of-litter to best standard within six hours; local roads should be cleaned from worst to best within five days.

Citizens who find their local council — or any other duty body — failing in that duty

can go to a magistrate's court to get an order for the clean-up work to be done, with a daily fine until the area is clean.

On the other side, the Environmental Protection Act gives local councils the right to take individuals and busi-

nesses responsible for litter to court, with a maximum fine of £2,500. Badly littered private land to which the public has access, such as car parks, can be made a litter control area, and the owner made liable to keep it litter-free.

So far, few local authorities have received formal complaints about littered streets. As a rule, an informal complaint is enough to get a clean-up. But if anyone does find that the council, British Rail, the British Airports Authority or anyone else with a duty to clear litter is not doing its duty, then a call to the Tidy Britain Group will make a clean sweep of the mess.

BILL CATER

## Totting up the balances

THERE IS no single answer to the problems of litter and waste, according to the professionals of the Tidy Britain Group; real life rarely has simple solutions, Bill Cater writes.

Recycling is not the entire solution, although it is an answer sometimes, for some materials and in some places. It can be economically viable for a council to put up bins to collect waste paper, bottles and cans so they can be recycled. But often the cost of recycled products is so much higher than new ones that nobody wants them and there are no buyers for the contents of the bins.

Should taxes and subsidies be used to swing the balance towards recycling? You have to think carefully first, say the professionals. Other bills and balances have to be totted up: transporting waste uses fuel

and could indirectly cause more pollution than making new paper, bottles, or cans.

Tidy Britain Group's director general, Graham Ashworth, favours recycling because it makes people thoughtful about waste material. "But we are very cautious about pretending that it will solve all problems," he says.

It is because the group takes a logical, factual approach to problems that it can talk to the business world, he believes.

"Take plastic: the general public view is that it can't be recycled. It can, but whether recycling is best or whether we should see waste plastic as an energy source is a matter for informed decisions."

We in Coca-Cola Great Britain have always recognised litter to be a behavioural problem and are committed to helping to alleviate the total problem, as well as addressing specific litter issues. It seemed obvious to us, many years ago, therefore that we should support the principal organisation charged with the responsibility of creating a litter free Britain - The Tidy Britain Group.

Last year we were proud to receive from the Group the prestigious Queen Mother's Birthday Awards Trophy to recognise our efforts over the past decade.

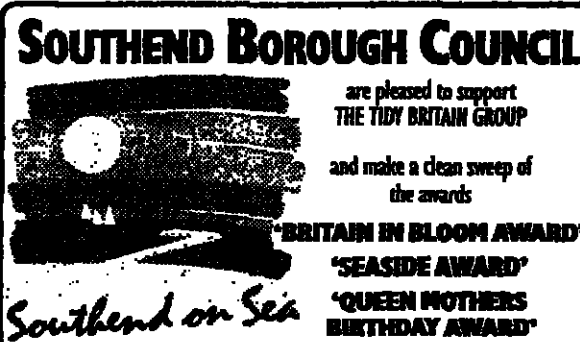
We continue to support the Group in many ways, principally through our sponsorship of the People and Places programme and wish the Group every success in their continuing efforts



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"Litter is a menace. It is the all too evident reminder of where we fail to care for our environment. Tidy Britain Group has a key role in campaigning and educating people about litter. I congratulate them on their many achievements in the last year, and I and my colleagues look forward to working closely with the Group and will continue to give the campaign against litter our strong personal support."

"I am very pleased to give my support to the Tidy Britain Group as it embarks on its new programme, providing more statistical data about the state of the nation and developing its environmental enhancement programme."

"I have been a keen supporter of the Tidy Britain Group for some time and am delighted to endorse its new programme designed to give us more information about the 'litterment' cleanliness to help communities with local environmental improvements."

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Despite his unsuccessful test-drive, Ashdown may yet end up its relevance to Scotland. With Peter Stinson's contract ending, at the launch of the Library















# Violence blackens New Zealand's name

Philip de Glanville is the ghost at New Zealand's feast. He serves to remind the All Blacks, as they continue to celebrate their success, of the cardinal flaw at the heart of their rugby psyche. They will admit to no wrong. What was perpetrated on the eye of the South-West centre on Saturday sprang from the conviction of the tourists. That the management has declined to comment further suggests a retreat behind the defensive stockade. That the players themselves may, in mitigation, wish to parade the example during the British Isles' tour last summer, when Dean Richards was thought guilty of a similar action against Frank Bunce in the match against North Harbour, is also inappropriate. Two wrongs do not make a right.

New Zealand are, unequivocally, the greatest rugby nation. The All Blacks will

defend this reputation to the last gasp. Pride matters a good deal to New Zealand. The solemn honour of playing for the All Blacks remains every schoolboy's dream despite the "new image" New Zealand sophisticates would like to preach. They wish their country to be more than just about rugby. It is, of course. But the All Blacks, inescapably, are about the best to be carrying their flag, apart from the great Dame Kiri Te Kanawa.

The All Blacks know their strength. But they do not understand their weakness. When their reputation is brought into the slightest question, when defeat might loom, when they are made to feel great forces are amassed against them, the team from the semi-colon on the map of the South Pacific will be defiant at all costs and sometimes to their cost.

Often they exhibit a quiet and modest pride. They are



**GERALD DAVIES**  
Rugby Commentary

born to believe in their elevation above all. Time and again they have demonstrated, more so than any other team, that they understand the requirements of rugby football better than anybody. Tradition bequeaths a generous sense of their own superiority from one generation to the next. At best, this gives them great dignity. It is from this fountain of constant inspiration that they draw their strength.

But therein lies the weakness, too. It can turn to high-handed haughtiness which ignores all else. At its worst, this reflects a ruthless disdain for the opposition. Haughtiness transforms to stubborn-

ness so that loss of face cannot possibly be countenanced. In their rare defeats, they are sullen. So that in rugby football and in the defence of their glory, anything goes. Myopically, as the *laager* mentality takes over, to talk of fairness is beside the point. This can get out of hand.

Generally, New Zealand take maximum advantage and go, quite rightly, to the very edge of what the laws allow. So much so that events at the ruck, so marginal in the definition of what is and what is not acceptable, can, quite wrongly, be an excuse for anything. Too often they credit themselves with the right lev-

els of aggression in this area and complain about others' lack of it. Were the incidents at Redruth to have occurred in our domestic fixtures it is highly probable that a player would have been sent off. Over the years, referees have willingly accommodated the All Blacks' rucking technique in a way that would not otherwise be the case here.

New Zealand remain unrepentant. On their 1978 tour in their match against Bridgend, on a Tuesday, John Ashworth ripped open J. P. R. Williams' cheek in a manifestly violent act in a ruck. It created a furor. If there had been any soul searching in the New Zealand camp, it did not last long. Ashworth was brought on at half-time the following Saturday against the Barbarians. This was seen as an act of defiance of the public mood. A year ago, against Australia,

Richard Loe, the All Black prop, executed what is best described as a karate chop on Carozza, after the Wallaby winger had scored a try. The winger's nose was broken. Despite the outcry in Australia, the All Blacks exhibited no sense of contrition. Loe went unpunished. He was later banished for a year for an offence in a game in New Zealand.

De Glanville's left eye is closed as a result of the indiscriminate use of the studs. In case it has escaped New Zealand's notice, this is serious. This has nothing to do with upholding a reputation. This has nothing to do with being a man's game and, as men, they should take it. But for an inch or two, the consequences do not bear thinking about. This is inexcusable behaviour. New Zealand should say so. Rather than detract from their great name this would add to it.

## North fall short despite Grayson record

Northern Division ..... 21  
New Zealanders ..... 27

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE passionate atmosphere of Anfield was transferred from football to rugby union yesterday and, aptly enough, a former footballer provided the focal point for the noisy, excitable crowd of 24,636.

Paul Grayson, once of Accrington Stanley, kicked seven penalties on his first visit to the ground to keep the Northern Division in touch with a curiously-muted All Blacks.

Indeed the atmosphere, so rewarding for the North officials who have decided to take the game to the major stadiums in their division, was probably better than the game, which was a patchwork of errors from both sides.

That New Zealand sustained their unbeaten tour record by virtue of scoring four tries to nil was thoroughly justified but their management must be unhappy that they show little sign of development and continue to be hard-hit by referees.

"Today I understood what the penalties were for," Laurie Mains, their coach, said. "I am annoyed at the carelessness of some of our guys, in defence and attack. The top two inches aren't working but there were a lot of new All Blacks out there and they do not yet have the control we expect."

The All Blacks won by two goals, two tries and a penalty goal to seven penalties but lost the penalty count 19-7 (last Saturday, against the South-West, they conceded 18 penalties to eight).

Ten times Grayson, the 22-year-old Northampton stand-off half, took aim for the posts, twice from around 50 metres, and, had he not hurried his last simple effort from 18 metres, the margin of defeat would have been just three points. As it was, he established an individual points record against a touring New Zealand party in this country.

Where Grayson exercised the requisite control, however, his colleagues could not. The North put together, as have the other divisional teams, the framework of an effective game but not the substance. Pre-match hints of an expansive game were not fulfilled and the tighter tactics so ineffectively executed that the All Blacks' cover was not tested.

Once again, though, a New Zealand side found itself accused of bending the game's laws. They stopped us doing what we wanted to do because they kill the ball," Mike Slemen, the North coach, said. "They also stop lots of things by being in the wrong place by coming back very slowly, but they have been doing that for



Rush, scorer of one of the All Blacks' four tries, evades the despairing tackle of the airborne Scully during yesterday's game at Anfield

years. It stops the chance of something else happening."

Northern handling errors abounded so that the consistent efforts of Rodber and, from the back, Hunter invariably came to nothing. Even so Hunter indicated that his form is creeping towards international level and his break from deep defence in the

closing minutes, with a superb injection of pace, almost gave Fielden space to go for the line.

The All Blacks defended, as always, in great depth and they exposed, early in the game, frailties in the home defence. In that they were assisted by Jim Fleming's interpretation, which allowed them to hold ball up in the

tackle so that movements which might otherwise have died were sustained.

That assisted Ellis to his first try, which restored the New Zealand lead at 8-3, and then the stand-off had the vision to see the North defence was not at home and chased his own kick to the line. The third try was simple forward

play: a lineout won, a forward drive and Hewitt, standing off, plunged through.

Two further penalties from Grayson kept the North in nominal contention at 22-12, even though they lost Baldwin at the interval with a twisted knee. When Grayson knocked over another from 52 metres, only a converted try separated

the teams, until there came a familiar sight at Anfield — Rush scoring.

In this instance it was Eric Rush rather than Ian; the All Blacks wing took advantage of powerful play by Clarke who, given limited opportunities, performed sensibly in the centre. But the final quarter proved a struggle for the touring side as Grayson nibbled away at their lead. Fortunately for them, his appetite did not prove insatiable.

SCORERS: Northern Division: Penalty goals: Grayson (7). New Zealand: Tries: Ellis (2), Hewitt, Rush. Conversions: Hewitt (2), Grayson (2).

NORTHERN DIVISION: 1 Hunter (Northampton); 2 Mauger (Salford); 3 Mauger (Northampton); 4 Mauger (Northampton); 5 Mauger (Northampton); 6 Mauger (Northampton); 7 Mauger (Northampton); 8 Mauger (Northampton); 9 Mauger (Northampton); 10 Mauger (Northampton); 11 Mauger (Northampton); 12 Mauger (Northampton); 13 Mauger (Northampton); 14 Mauger (Northampton); 15 Mauger (Northampton); 16 Mauger (Northampton); 17 Mauger (Northampton); 18 Mauger (Northampton); 19 Mauger (Northampton); 20 Mauger (Northampton); 21 Mauger (Northampton); 22 Mauger (Northampton); 23 Mauger (Northampton); 24 Mauger (Northampton); 25 Mauger (Northampton); 26 Mauger (Northampton); 27 Mauger (Northampton); 28 Mauger (Northampton); 29 Mauger (Northampton); 30 Mauger (Northampton); 31 Mauger (Northampton); 32 Mauger (Northampton); 33 Mauger (Northampton); 34 Mauger (Northampton); 35 Mauger (Northampton); 36 Mauger (Northampton); 37 Mauger (Northampton); 38 Mauger (Northampton); 39 Mauger (Northampton); 40 Mauger (Northampton); 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# Ferguson plans to recapture initiative

FROM ROS HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT  
IN ISTANBUL

AS ALEX Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, walked his team and their ten security guards along a private path beside the Bosphorus yesterday, he relished United's role as the pacesetter for English football, a role that comes with their place in the European Cup.

"We didn't expect to be coming here having drawn 3-3 at Old Trafford," he said, "but the situation is now straightforward. We have got to win the second leg here in Istanbul and, in a perverse way, I'm looking forward to it. I will be glad to get out of here, but the excitement of representing English football, the acid test that is to come, is really exciting."

Ferguson will wait until this morning to decide the make-up of his team to meet Galatasaray in the second leg of United's second-round tie — his central defender, Gary Pallister, who was unable to train for a week or even to jog yesterday, is, to put it mildly, doubtful — yet he does plan to attack and expects the Turkish champions to do the same.

There is more at stake than the £6 million United could win if they qualified for the next stage of the competition, the Champions League. United are stylized, the aristocrats of British football — moreover, they are the evidence that we can embrace and be inspired by a foreigner such as Eric Cantona, whose rapport with Mark Hughes, Ryan Giggs and Lee Sharpe lifts them well above the stereotypical game

that has all but failed England in their attempts to qualify for the World Cup finals.

"Tonight could be the examination of how good English football is," Ferguson said. "I'm satisfied that the quality of football we play is as good as anything in Europe. We have to prove that and, even though the absence of Pallister reduces my attacking options in a way, I still am picking a side that I feel is good enough to win the match."

Talk is cheap, Ferguson, having once led Aberdeen to an inspiring if at the time unlikely Cup-Winners' Cup final victory over Real Madrid, is the first to know that it is action that counts. That is why he is toying with selecting Bryan Robson, despite a reaction to a sinus operation last week, to lead on the field in the

The Northern Ireland football association (IFA) insisted yesterday that Northern Ireland's World Cup qualifying match with Ireland in two weeks' time will go ahead in Belfast as planned. "The IFA is happy, the police are happy, and the match will go ahead at Windsor Park," Dave Bowen, the IFA secretary, said. Bowen's statement appeared to contradict an earlier announcement from Zurich by Fifa, the world governing body, suggesting that a decision would be taken today, after rumours yesterday that the tie might be switched to Old Trafford in Manchester or to a ground in Germany.

Ali Sami Yen stadium, where 35,000 partisans can create an almighty cauldron.

Robson has been this way before and been a winner. He shrugged off the small reception party at the Atatürk Airport on Monday when 150 Turks, orchestrated for the benefit of local television, chanted slogans. This little scene was Turkey's answer to the tabloid nonsense of the English press, the "stuffed

turkey" headlines of a fortnight ago that offended the home players.

Ferguson, meanwhile, said that the Turkish champions had shown no nastiness at Old Trafford, though their play-acting had the hallmarks of Germans or Italians — Germans, certainly, because for the last eight of Galatasaray's 88-year existence, the club has been run by German managers and their team tonight

possesses two German defenders — Reinhard Stumpf and Falko Götz — as well as a Swiss-born forward, Kubilay Turkulmaz. There are also, in reserve, two more German-bred players. There is a Teutonic influence at Galatasaray, just as there is Gallic influence, through Cantona, at United.

Assuming the thigh injury does prevent Pallister from performing, Ferguson still has some thinking to do weighing up the options in his expensive squad. He, and the players, are doing their contemplation in a hotel of almost obscene luxury. The Ciragan Palace is a restored home of the last of the Ottoman Sultans, a building in marble gutted by fire in 1910 but rebuilt in the grand manner at a cost of \$150 million two years ago. That is more money than even Silvio

Berlusconi has squandered in building AC Milan into the favourites to win this tournament.

As they sit beneath the chandeliers, as they stroll the exclusive and guarded parkland around the hotel, the players still do not know which of their "foreigners" will be left sitting in the stand. It will not be Andrei Kanchelskis nor Brian McClair, who have been left in Manchester with flu. The third suspected flu victim, Roy Keane, is here, is fit, but is likely to be omitted. Never mind: he can tell those Irishmen with whom he shared the dole queue in Cork barely three years ago that he has slept where the sultans slept a century ago.

Certainly not sleeping, not in any kind of repose, will be Lee Sharpe. Ferguson listened

to Turkish admiration yesterday for the obvious talents of Giggs and Cantona and responded: "Aye, they're good players, but Sharpe's form is magnificent. The boy's actually improving all the time, he scored eight goals from the wing, his passing and his vision are coming on a treat."

"Most of all he's relishing playing football. The number of things that happened to the kid — the groin problem, the illness — meant that this was the first pre-season he's trained properly. From a skinny lad, he's come on at a tremendous rate. He's 6ft 1 and a bit, he has fantastic shoulders and he's maintained his running power. He excites me." Yes, but will he run the Turks?

Wary Norwich, page 44

## De Glanville controversy sparks talks on rucking

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

PHILIP de Glanville, the Bath and England centre injured playing against the New Zealanders last Saturday, yesterday welcomed an initiative to bring together leading coaches, referees and players to discuss rugby union's rucking law.

De Glanville received 15 stitches around his left eye after being kicked at a ruck during the South and South-West Division's defeat at Redruth. Although he has ruled out legal action, he is still seeking a change in New Zealand's stance regarding the incident.

De Glanville, 25, spoke to Neil Gray, the tour manager, on Monday evening and received his personal apology. But the player does not accept that what happened was an

in a raking incident in South Africa this summer which removed Tordo from the tour.

It recommends an overhaul of what should be allowed at a ruck and yesterday at Anfield, where the New Zealanders beat the Northern Division 27-21, Ian Beer, the RFU president, agreed with his New Zealand opposite number, Ian Clarke, that a coaching conference on interpretation of the ruck in the two hemispheres should be instituted in a constructive attempt to find common ground.

"I want to avoid players being put into this position again," Beer said. He hopes that the concerned parties can meet before this tour is much older. "It's not the first time we have had difficulties with ruck techniques. It's a different philosophy, a different interpretation of the law and these questions will recur, whatever action is taken on specific incidents."

Laurie Mains, the New Zealand coach, and Cooke welcomed the opportunity to debate the law. Cooke said: "The sad thing is that those of us involved at the sharp end don't get that chance often enough and things get distorted. It's a question of whether someone is trying to free the ball or giving someone a kicking for the sake of it. On my viewing of the video, I couldn't see the ball anywhere near the body. I find it difficult to believe forwards don't know they are treading on someone's head."

The injury means De Glanville could not be considered for the England A team which will play the New Zealanders at Gateshead on Sunday. Seven senior internationals appear in the side, including Stuart Barnes, who will decide today whether he is fit to resume after a recent groin injury.

Gerald Davies, page 46  
All Blacks win, page 46

### TEAM

ENGLAND A (v New Zealand, Gateshead, Nov 7): J. Callard (Bath); I. Hunter (Northampton); D. Hopley (Worcester); M. Catt (Bath); P. Hall (Bristol); S. Barnes (Bath); A. Buchanan (Glasgow); G. Rowntree (Leicester); G. Davis (Bath); A. Mullins (Leicester); J. Hall (Bath, captain); N. Redman (Bath); D. Sims (Gloucester); N. Back (Leicester); T. Rodber (Northampton); replacements: N. Beal (Northampton); S. Potter (Leicester); M. Dawson (Northampton); C. Clark (Bath); K. Dunn (Worcester); S. Ojomoh (Bath).

"unfortunate accident," as the New Zealanders claim, a view supported by Geoff Cooke, England's manager.

"The good thing about all this is that what happened to me does not happen to another player," de Glanville said. "This sort of discussion has been needed because the differences in interpretation lead only to difficulties."

De Glanville believes that a discussion document presented by Des Diamond, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) divisional technical director for London, should have received wider prominence. The document coincided with the head injury to Jean-Francois Tordo, the captain of France.



Michael Kinane urges Vintage Crop to victory for Ireland in the Melbourne Cup, Australia's most prestigious race. Te Akau Nick finished second.

Report, page 45

## Gooch blames counties' self-interest

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Gooch, who resigned as England captain three months ago, believes the game in this country is uncompetitive, overpopulated and being slowly strangled by the counties' self-interest. Gooch has also joined the campaign to revitalize county cricket with a system of promotion and relegation.

Gooch is taking a winter off from playing but he was in London yesterday for the launch of the *Benson and Hedges Year Book*. In the foreword, Gooch admits that 1993 has been disastrous for

the England team and he suggests that this will "become a common occurrence unless certain problems are confronted."

Gooch writes: "The overall standard of our cricket is not good enough. Our players are not hard enough, or competitive enough, or mentally tough enough... I have no doubt that England's first-class game is overpopulated and there is not enough competition for places."

"Maybe one way of introducing more competitiveness would be to have a two-division county champion-

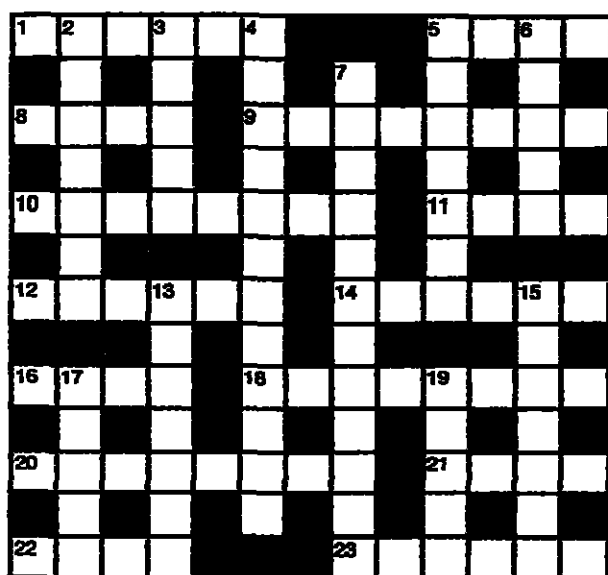
ship. That might seem a radical step but these are desperate times. We are going to have to be fully professional in our attitude and performance if we are to stop the rot... it's time some counties looked beyond their own boundaries: there is too much self-interest."

Gooch is adding a distinguished voice to the views of many, and it is to be hoped that those indicted take heed. The Test and County Cricket Board has a policy-making meeting next month and those clubs who have hitherto considered only their own bank

balance may at last be shamed into actions which benefit the game in general. Dividing the overloaded championship, creating an elite, would be an admirable start.

Gooch also admitted that his final weeks as England captain were "depressing — and not just because we were losing". He explains: "To put it bluntly, I got fed up telling people what to do... the pressure of having to do well every time I went to the crease was becoming unbearable."

Pakistan win, page 43



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Just released for Christmas: The Times Crosswords — Book 17. The Times Concise Crosswords — Book 5. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Book 12. £4.25 each.

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 3

#### ACROSS

- 1 Severely criticises (6)
- 5 Little poetry (4)
- 8 Desert (4)
- 9 Repulsion (8)
- 10 Loose robe (8)
- 12 What a pity! (4)
- 12 Approval (6)
- 14 Choirboy (6)
- 16 Animal's cheek (4)
- 18 Holding together (8)
- 20 Short-lived insect (8)
- 21 Not cooked through (4)
- 22 Damage (4)
- 23 Fruit eaten as vegetable (6)

#### DOWN

- 2 Mother with pride (7)
- 3 Object (5)
- 4 Regular travellers' concession (6,6)
- 5 Stamp charge (7)
- 6 Goddess of flowers (5)
- 7 Frank discussion (5-2-5)
- 13 Articulate (7)
- 15 Young found in form (7)
- 17 Massive river beast (5)
- 19 Disorderly crowd (5)

#### SOLUTION TO NO 2

ACROSS: 1 All Souls 7 Titan 8 Aggregate 9 Vet 10 Tool 11 Refuse 13 Combat 14 Glossy 17 Better 18 Dear 20 Tor 22 Off the peg 23 Felon 24 Prepared

DOWN: 1 Avast 2 Leg-room 3 Open 4 Leader 5 Stave 6 Anatomy 7 Tequila 12 Caution 13 Cast Off 15 Sleeper 16 Refeer 17 Brail 19 Rigid 21 Chip

Crossword, page 24

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Short-Kasparov, Times World Championship, game 8. This is a perfect position for a chess computer. White to play and mate in four moves.

Solution, page 43

Raymond Keene, page 8

### WORLD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

#### LAZAR-HOUSE

- a. A hostel for diseased people
- b. An establishment for war games
- c. The eyes (from the Greek)

#### MAD-APPLE

- a. A French fruit farmer
- b. The fruit of the egg-plant
- c. A skeleton in the closet

#### MEROBLAST

- a. A partly germinal ovum
- b. A prehistoric sea-perch
- c. The oval nuclear crater

#### IER-OE

- a. A bumpkin
- b. A great-grandchild
- c. The tympanum

Answers on page 43

## The Electronic Office

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